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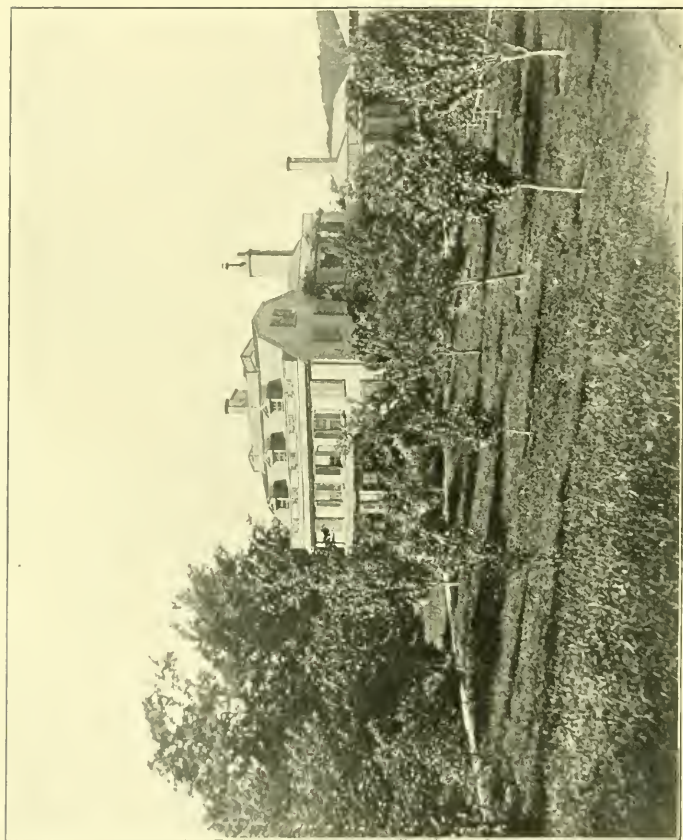
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JEREMY GRIDLEY

PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY  
OCTOBER 22, 1902







THE JEREMY GRIDLEY HOUSE, BROOKLINE.



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JEREMY GRIDLEY

*PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY, OCTOBER 22, 1902*

BY

R. G. F. CANDAGE



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# THE GRIDLEY HOUSE, BROOKLINE,

AND

## JEREMY GRIDLEY

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Houses as well as towns have histories, and some houses have exceedingly interesting histories, and by their study much can be learned of what transpired in and about them in regard to the character and lives of their owners and occupants, which give interest to the place where they have been located. The Jeremy Gridley house, so called, of Brookline, is one old house with a history, and is the subject of this paper.

This house was gambrel roofed, built in 1740, on the site of another house destroyed by fire the same year, opposite the present First Parish meeting-house, by Nathaniel Gardner, of Brookline, who was a merchant, with his place of business in Boston. The house existed from that date to 1886, a period of a hundred and forty-six years, during which the country passed through the most interesting stages of its development.

Mr. Gardner belonged to the family of that name, well known in the earlier history of the town, whose kinsman, Isaac Gardner, was killed at the battle of Lexington. He occupied the house until his death, some five or six years after its erection. His "heirs conveyed the Mansion House, Barn and Smith's shop with piece of land containing 5 acres more or less, bounded Westerly and Southwesterly on County

Road, Northeasterly on land of Benjamin Gardner, Southeasterly on land of Rev. Jos. Allen in part, and in part by meeting house on Town land; In consideration of £1000 in Bills of Credit, to Joseph and Moses White, September 19, 1746." The consideration included land not contained in the five acres mentioned. Deacon Benjamin White, of the First Parish church, was the occupant of the house during this ownership according to Miss Woods' statement in "Historical Sketches of Brookline."

The property next passed into the hands and occupancy of Jeremy Gridley, Esq., but his deed is not found in the Suffolk Registry, probably was never recorded. He came to Brookline from Boston prior to 1755, but the precise date is not known. He was born in Boston March 10, 1701, graduated from Harvard College in 1725, studied law and was admitted to the bar, where he won the distinction of being called "The Father of the Boston Bar." He held many town and public offices during his residence in the town, an account of which is given elsewhere. He died September 10, 1767.

His brother, Richard Gridley, was administrator of his estate, which on December 29, 1768, he deeded to Walter Logan, of Roxbury, as appears by papers in Suffolk Probate Registry, but not found on the Registry of Deeds, and probably was never recorded.

The next owner and occupant was Henry Hulton, Esq., one of the five Royal Commissioners of Customs appointed in 1767 by the British Government for the collection of the revenue at Boston. He arrived in this country from England in December, 1767, and took up his residence at the Gridley house in Brookline.

He was an ostentatious person, fond of pomp and show, and often entertained parties of British officers at his house,

who rode through the town, to and from Boston, attired in uniforms, with nodding plumes and gay trappings.

It was a time of unrest in the public mind, and those scenes in connection with Hulton, who was looked upon by the quiet, sober people of the town as a disturber of their peace and a hated collector of "unjust taxes," further inflamed the smothered fire within, until endurance by them had lost its virtue, and the result was that the windows of his house were smashed and he fled to Boston. But even that town became too warm for the Royal Commissioners, who for further security retired to the Castle, and later Hulton returned to England, to be heard of no more as a Royal Commissioner in this country.

His Brookline property was confiscated and sold under an Act of the General Court, in which he and others similarly situated were designated "conspirators and absentees." The deed recorded in the Suffolk Registry conveying the property under that Act bears date of May 11, 1781, and is as follows:

"KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENCE

"Whereas by an act of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the Year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty One 'An Act to provide for the payment of debts due from the Conspirators and Absentees and for the recovery of Debts due to them' and by another Act in addition to said Act We Richard Craunch of Braintree Samuel Henshaw of Milton and Samuel Barrett of Boston are in the County of Suffolk Esqrs are authorized and empowered to Sell the Estate of said Conspirators and Absentees lying in the County of Suffolk and to give good and sufficient deeds in fee to the purchaser in the Name and behalf of the Commonwealth.

"Now know Ye that we, the said Richard Craunch, Samuel Henshaw and Samuel Barrett by virtue of the power and

authority to us given in said Act and by these presence Do Sell, Convey and Confirm unto David Cook of Roxbury in the County of Suffolk Gent<sup>n</sup> his Heirs and Assigns forever all the real estate of Henry Hulton late of Brookline in the County of Suffolk Esqr. now conspirator for the sum of 1220£ in gold and silver Value to us in hand paid before the delivery hereof by the said David Cook which sum was the most it would fetch and the Estate in the town of Brookline is bounded as follows : —

“One piece of land containing about 5 acres more or less bounded Southerly and Westerly on the County road North-erly and Northeasterly on land in possession now or late of Elisha Gardner Easterly and Northeasterly on Town land by the meeting house together with the dwelling house barn and outhouses. Also other land in Brookline, etc.”

Prior to the sale Rev. Joseph Jackson, of the First Parish Church, occupied the house for four or five years, as appears from a petition to the General Court on file in the archives at the State House, also Diary of Thomas Hutchinson.

Whether David Cook ever occupied the premises himself there is no evidence to show, and probably he did not.

On July 29, 1785, David Cook deeded the property to John Lucas, of Boston, Gentleman, for the “consideration of £597 <sup>s</sup>10 Lawful money.”

John Lucas held the property for nearly five years. He gave four hundred dollars towards furnishing the meeting-house built in 1806, apparently after he had left the town, which stamps him a generous man. Part of the money given by him was spent in the purchase of a clock, which remained in the meeting-house until it was demolished, and then was removed to the Town Hall, and from that to the present Town Hall in 1873. Some seven or eight years ago, by vote of the town, it was restored to the custody of the First Parish, and now, although nearly a century old,

continues to mark time with regularity in the new meeting-house, its rightful place and home.

John Lucas and his wife Hannah conveyed their property in Brookline to William Knight and his wife Anna, March 17, 1790, for £800, and they by deed of even date conveyed it to William Hyslop, of Brookline, "in consideration of 5 shillings."

William Hyslop was a wealthy man, who owned and resided on the Boylston estate, afterwards the property of Henry Lee, Esq., father of our late townsman, Henry Lee, Esq.

Mr. Hyslop donated to the town the triangular lot of land in the fork of the roads west of the First Parish meeting-house, in 1793, upon which was erected the brick school-house. His estate included land on Warren street later owned by the Murdocks, but now included in the Sargent estate.

William Hyslop so far as appears never lived in the old house, but his son of the same name did. In 1796 William Hyslop, Sr., died, and on February 14, 1797, his heirs, Increase Sumner, of Roxbury, and his wife Elizabeth, "as heirs of their father William Hyslop," deeded the property to David Hyslop, of Brookline, "the five acre lot with buildings thereon" and other lands in Brookline, "in consideration of \$10,000."

Increase Sumner was governor of Massachusetts, 1797 to 1799, dying in office. His wife was daughter of William and Mehitable Hyslop, of Brookline; his mother was Sarah, daughter of Robert Sharp, of Brookline; his sister, Sarah Sumner, married Ebenezer Davis, of Brookline, whose son, Thomas Aspinwall Davis, built the house in the centre of Linden place, and who was mayor of Boston at the time of his death in 1845.

David Hyslop, who bought the property of Governor Sumner, was a brother of Mrs. Sumner, and it was he who gave the baptismal font, costing forty dollars, to the First Parish Church.

April 15, 1800, David Hyslop sold and conveyed the old house, outbuildings, and five-acre lot to Mr. John Carnes, of Boston, "in consideration of \$4,066.67."

Mr. Carnes owned the hill in rear of the present First Parish meeting-house, and of him the town and parish bought the lot in 1805 upon which the meeting-house was built in 1806.

He owned "the homestead lot and buildings thereon," some eight years, and presumably occupied them, although no incidents worth recording have been found in connection therewith.

On March 23, 1808, he deeded them to Elizabeth Partridge of Boston, widow, in consideration of \$6,000, he being described in that instrument as "John Carnes of Boston, Gentleman."

Mrs. Elizabeth Partridge's deed describes the premises as follows :

"A parcel of land and messuage in Brookline bounded by a stone wall, beginning at a corner near where the meeting house formerly stood, thence running Westerly and Northwesterly by the County road to land of John Goddard and Sons to the Worcester Turnpike road, Easterly on said Turnpike Road to land of Thomas Walley, thence Easterly and Southeasterly by said Walley's land to the Town land, and thence Southerly by said Town land to the bounds first mentioned, together with the dwelling house and out houses thereon standing. Containing about 8 acres more or less."

The widow Partridge was said to be wealthy, but she lived a quiet, unostentatious life, so far as appears, in the old



house, and died under its roof June 6, 1814, aged 86, six years after her purchase of it.

She left a will naming her devisees "William Gooch and Deborah his wife, Stephen Bean and Susanna his wife of Boston, Thomas T. Hubbard and Joseph Hubbard by Peter Brooks their guardian," who conveyed the property to Thomas W. Sumner and Elizabeth his wife, of Boston, on April 1, 1816, for the "consideration of \$1.00." "All right, title, and interest in and to a parcel of land in Brookline, which was conveyed to Elizabeth Partridge by John Carnes of Boston, Gentleman, by his deed of March 23, 1808, and recorded in Norfolk Registry, Lib. 29, Fol. 246. Reference is made to said deed for description of said premises."

Mr. Sumner came to Brookline from Boston, where he resided on Chambers street, and his occupation having been a house carpenter, in these days he would probably be called a builder and contractor. He had been a selectman of Boston, had represented that town in the General Court for seven years, 1805-1811, and was highly respected.

He was of a generous and kindly nature, and he won the friendship and regard of the school children of the brick school-house by giving fruit from his orchard and by assigning the fruit of several trees to their especial use.

This affable gentleman lived in the old house for thirty-odd years, and died under its roof May 29, 1849, aged eighty years, regretted by many persons, his wife having preceded him to her final rest.

After Mr. Sumner's death a plan of the land was made by T. & J. Doane, dated May 6, 1850, and it was divided into lots, and his heirs, "Emily P. Sumner, of Boston, Eliza P. Sumner, William H. Allen, and Caroline H. Allen, *nx*. William, of New Bedford, and Alice E. Sumner, of Walpole, on July 9,

1850, conveyed a part of the same to James T. Fisher, of Boston, in consideration of \$6,112.51."

The deed described the property transferred as follows:

"6/7 of a parcel of land in Brookline and the mansion house thereon, being lots numbered 9 and 10 on T. & J. Doane's plan dated May 6, 1850. Bounded south by Walnut street 119.57 feet; southwest by the same on a curve, with a radius of 32 feet, 33 feet; southwest again on said street 256.92 feet; north by lot 11 said plan 81.73 feet; northwest by the same 121.15 feet; northeast by land of Hutchins 64.16 feet; and east by lots 6, 7 and 8, 370.7 feet; containing by estimation 61,565 feet. The mansion house of the late Thomas W. Sumner stands on lot 10."

On June 18, 1851, James T. Fisher, of Boston, deeded to Nathaniel G. Chapin, of Brookline, "in consideration of \$7,750, a parcel of land in Brookline with buildings thereon. Being lots 9 and 10 and part of 11 on T. & J. Doane's plan of the Sumner estate, containing by estimation 71,429 square feet. Being the same premises conveyed to me by deeds recorded with Norfolk Deeds, Lib. 195, fol. 141, and Lib. 197, fol. 74."

Mr. Chapin was a merchant of Boston and a well-known resident of Brookline for many years. He was a selectman of Brookline for the years 1861 and 1862, trustee of the cemetery for 1875 and 1876, and an auditor for 1877 and 1878.

He occupied the old mansion until 1876, when he conveyed the property to Henry G. Rice and Charles L. Thayer, trustees, and they in consideration of \$4,050, on June 25, 1877, deeded it to Moses Williams, Jr. Mr. Williams' deed included land not of Mr. Chapin's grant, the whole containing 130,997 square feet by estimation, and buildings.

Mr. Williams graduated from the Brookline High School,

Harvard University, Harvard Law School, and was admitted to the bar, where he has won distinction.

He represented the town in the General Court for the years 1873, 1874, and 1875; was a selectman for the year 1878, but declined a re-election; has been, with his brother Charles A. Williams, town counsel for twenty years or more, and is now a trustee of the Public Library and a member of this Society.

He owned and occupied the old mansion house until 1886, when he took it down and erected upon its site the fine modern house now standing, and which he owned and occupied until 1899, when he sold it to its present owner, Mrs. Frances E. Hunt, wife of William D. Hunt, Esq.

For nearly a hundred and fifty years the old house was a landmark in the town. If its walls could have given a recital of events which transpired within them much that is now lost would have been added to the history of our town concerning those who were its owners and occupants. Of that long list all but one have passed away, and we simply catch glimpses of their lives and characters through this fragmentary and imperfect account of their connection with "an old house with an history."

### JEREMIAH GRIDLEY.

There came to Massachusetts, probably from Essex County, England, about 1630, three brothers, Richard, Samuel, and Thomas Gridley. Samuel died shortly after their arrival, Thomas settled at Hartford, Conn., where he died, leaving a numerous posterity.

Richard, the elder brother, settled in Boston, where he was made a freeman in 1634. "In 1656 Richard Gridley with other citizens of ye Towne of Boston signed a subscription paper towards the Building of a town house." Gridley's sub-

scription being "£2, the same as Gov. Jo. Endicott." That was a wooden house built on the site of the present Old State House destroyed by fire.

He was a mason by trade and owned a house and lot, "the eastern boundary of which was washed by the waters of the bay."

He was appointed a surveyor in 1647, and was a member of the Honorable Artillery Company. He died in the fall of 1674, will probated in Boston.

His wife's name was Grace, who bore him a son, Joseph, probably previous to arrival in this country, and also a daughter, Mary, April 10, 1631, and thereafter down to 1642 four other daughters and two sons, eight in all. The names of the sons were Believe and Tremble, old-style Puritan names.

Believe married Anne, and they had four daughters born 1664 to 1672, namely, Mary, Bethiah, Susanna, and Hannah, no sons being mentioned in the Boston records.

On August 16, 1684, Richard Gridley, son of Richard and Abigail, was born, and then follow Joseph, Abigail, Abigail, 2d, and Lydia, the latter born December 21, 1691.

On February 27, 1694, Richard Gridley married Hannah Dawes, whose children were John, born November 23, 1694, and Samuel, born January 5, 1696.

Hannah Gridley died January 15, 1696, and we infer she was wife of Richard, and mother of John and Samuel, and that Richard later married Rebecca, the mother of Jeremiah, born March 10, 1701; Isaac, June 28, 1703; Rebecca, November 2, 1708; and Richard, January 3, 1710.

Jeremiah Gridley was descended from Richard the immigrant and Grace his wife, Joseph and Lydia Flood, Captain Richard and Rebecca. Jeremiah married — no date — Abigail Lewis, daughter of Hon. Ezekiel Lewis, born June 10,

1706, and to them were born Abigail, August 8, 1731; Sarah, April 4, 1736; and Rebecca, April 25, 1741, died in 1816.

Abigail married first, Joseph Dudley; second, John Gray on August 16, 1768; Sarah married Moses Scott, and removed to Yarmouth, N.S.; and Rebecca married Edward Bridge, of Roxbury, and her descendants are now living in Boston and Brookline. Hon. Ezekiel Lewis was a prominent citizen of Boston, had been a school teacher, a selectman, representative to the General Court, councillor, and merchant. He was twice married, first to Mary Breaden, by Rev. Samuel Willard, May 18, 1702, by whom he had a daughter Mary, born January 21, 1703.

He married second, Abigail Kilcup, widow of Roger Kilcup, October 11, 1704, Rev. Samuel Willard officiating.

By the latter marriage there were six children, viz.: Abigail, born June 2, 1706; William, November 28, 1707; Sarah, May 10, 1710; Eliza, August 12, 1712; Hannah, September 14, 1714; and Ezekiel, April 17, 1717. After Gridley's death the Masonic Grand Lodge, of which he had been Grand Master, sent a committee, of whom James Otis was one, to confer with "Mrs. Dudley, Gridley's eldest daughter, and Mr. Ezekiel Lewis, his brother-in-law," in regard to the funeral.

Isaac Gridley married Sarah Porter, January 28, 1728, whose children were Benjamin, born January 28, 1732, and Pollard, born March 23, 1735.

Rebecca Gridley, the sister, married Edward Cabot, July 11, 1732.

Richard Gridley married Hannah Deming, February 25, 1730, and their children were Richard, born July 12, 1731; Hannah, June 1, 1732; Samuel, June 14, 1734; Joseph, November 5, 1736; Jane, July 7, 1738; Scarborough, October 9, 1739.

Richard Gridley, brother of Jeremiah and Isaac, was a famed engineer and artillerist of Colonial and Revolutionary times.

He planned the fortifications at Governor's Island and the modern works at Castle Island in the harbor, fortifications at Gloucester, the Kennebec, and at Halifax. He was at Louisburg with Pepperell, and was entrusted by him with the plan for the reduction of those works, which were surrendered in 1745.

He was made engineer of the army in 1755 and was with General Winslow at Crown Point in 1756, and planned the fortifications around Lake George; he was with Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham aiding in the capture of Quebec in 1759.

He laid out the defences at Bunker Hill the night before the battle of June 17, 1775, was wounded in the foot at that battle, and narrowly escaped capture.

He aided in the plan and construction of the fortifications around Boston and at Dorchester Heights, which caused the British forces to evacuate the town on March 17, 1776.

He was commissioned major-general of the army, and made commander of the artillery by the Provincial Congress, September 20, 1775, but when his commission expired the following December, he was superseded by Gen. Henry Knox, "owing to age and infirmities," as a biographer put it. But notwithstanding "age and infirmities," he continued to serve his country with patriotic zeal and fervor until 1781, when he retired to his country home at Canton, Mass., where he died June 20, 1796, aged 86 years 5 months and 17 days.

But the intolerance of the age was such that this battle-scarred veteran of three wars was not allowed to be buried in the public burying-ground, because he had been a convert

to the teachings of Rev. John Murray on universal salvation, and his body was buried on what had been his own private grounds.

A few years since, the Grand Army Post at Canton raised funds and erected a monument to Gen. Richard Gridley, the friend of Washington, Warren, Revere, and other Revolutionary patriots, which was appropriately inscribed to his memory and publicly dedicated.

Jeremiah Gridley, commonly called Jeremy, the older brother, graduated from Harvard College in 1725. For some years thereafter he was usher in a Boston grammar school; studied theology and occasionally preached. He studied law and was admitted to the bar, but while waiting for a clientage, started a weekly paper called the "Rehearsal," the first number of which made its appearance September 27, 1731.

As editor of the "Rehearsal" his writings were praised for clearness of expression and for their literary style. A critic said, "He gave proof that he was one of the most elegant and classical writers of his time."

But journalism was not destined to be his lifework, and after a year's trial he severed his connection with the "Rehearsal" to devote his time and energy to the practice of the law. He wrote thereafter occasionally for the press, as a pastime, or upon topics of practical interest.

At the bar he won a distinguished position, and was held in high esteem by his associates, who called him "Father of the Boston Bar." It is said that his influence, aided by that of Edmund Trowbridge, gave the first impetus to profound legal learning and high professional spirit in Massachusetts.

"Pursue the study of law," said he, "rather than its gain. Pursue its gain enough to keep out of the briars, but give main attention to its study." And his life attests to the fact



that he carried out in practice what he taught others. He made a study of the law, and attained fame, but was indifferent to the acquisition of wealth, which his abilities would have given him power to accumulate. But he was content with moderate fees from those able to pay, and often served the poor without fee. As a consequence he died leaving an incumbered and insolvent estate. His fondness for official position was not for its emolument, but that without selfishness he might be better able to serve the public. That spirit led him to become a Freemason, and also a member of the Marine Society, both being charitable organizations.

Gridley's office became a resort for students, and some of the most distinguished lawyers of Massachusetts received their professional education under his instruction, among whom were Benjamin Prat, afterwards chief justice of New York, Oxenbridge Thatcher, William Cushing, and James Otis. Samuel Quincy and John Adams were examined by him and admitted to the bar on his motion.

Adams in his Diary notes the event as follows: "When the day for admission came Gridley rose up and bowed to his right hand and said, 'Mr. Quincy,' when Quincy rose up: then he turned to Mr. Adams, and he walked out. Mr. Gridley made a little speech in commendation of the accomplishments of the two young men; Mr. Prat followed with a few words; the oath was administered, the neophytes shook hands with the members of the Bar, received their congratulations, and invited them over to Stone's to drink some punch, where most of us resorted, and had a very cheerful chat."

John Adams entertained a high opinion of Gridley's ability, valued his friendship, and called him his master in the law. Gridley entertained like sentiments for Adams and Otis, and one day jokingly made the remark to his associates that he "had raised up two young eagles who would one day pick



his eyes out." The allusion was understood to be to Adams and Otis.

Gridley was a representative to the General Court for the years 1755, 1756, and 1757, in which he was an able debater and an influential member, whose known ability and integrity made him the agent in the performance of beneficial legislation for the advancement of knowledge, the comfort, and prosperity of the Province.

It is stated in Washburne's "Judicial History of Massachusetts" that he was attorney general for the year 1742, but the Council records of the Province do not confirm it. Probably he was assistant, and he was attorney general for 1767, the year of his death.

That authority also states that "as a representative he was ranked with the Whig party of that day, but his connection with the famous 'Writs of Assistance' lost him the confidence of his political friends."

In our investigation of the records of that period we fail to find proper evidence of such a fact — certainly the records of Brookline do not confirm it, but do show that he was held in that town in the highest esteem to the date of his death.

Gridley's manner in addressing courts and juries was said to be lofty and his opinions were pronounced with an air of authority and in the consciousness of his own power. But he never condescended to instruct a client in the law, nor to point out the course he should pursue in a cause. The following anecdote of him illustrates that point:

About 1760 a Mr. Lombard, a minister of education at Gorham, Me., had a disagreement with the people of his parish, and it was agreed that the connection should be dissolved. The parsonage and land belonging to it under cultivation, were valuable. Lombard had given a bond for

three thousand pounds to two deacons, Morton and Phinney, that upon the settlement of another minister he would give up the parsonage.

An illiterate person was invited to preach as a candidate for settlement, and to the surprise of Lombard and others he received and accepted the call to become the minister. The neighboring churches and ministers refused to assist in his ordination, whereupon the church ordained him by laying on of hands of Morton and Phinney, according to the Cambridge platform, and then brought suit in the Falmouth (now Portland) Court of Common Pleas against Lombard to compel him to give up the parsonage.

The case was argued by counsel, and Lombard was allowed to show that the man ordained was not the minister meant, or intended by the bond given, and he read from a Greek Testament the qualifications of a minister, the original of which he translated, but the jury found for the plaintiff.

Lombard appealed to the Supreme Court at York and employed Gridley as his counsel. The jury again found for the plaintiff. Gridley then moved in arrest of judgment, that there was no issue joined, which being apparent judgment was arrested on a repleader and the case was continued to the next term of the court, when Gridley introduced a plea in bar, and recited the grant of the township from the General Court, and the erection of the parsonage for the use of "a pious, learned, orthodox minister," etc., and then averred that the town had not settled another "pious, learned, orthodox minister."

The counsel for the plaintiff replied that they had settled another pious, orthodox minister, omitting "learned," as he said he was unwilling to put that in issue, and put themselves on the country.

Gridley demurred for a departure in the replication, to

which there was a joinder in demurrer. A short argument followed, the replication was determined to be insufficient, and the court gave judgment in favor of Lombard.

He was out of the court-room at the time, but hastened back on being informed he had won his case, and asked Gridley how it was done.

Gridley answered him, "How it was done, sir, you can never know until you get to heaven."

In the year 1761 Charles Paxton, an officer of the customs at Boston, applied to the Superior Court to grant him "Writs of Assistance," so called, in his search for smuggled goods. An ordinary "Writ of Assistance" was a search-warrant, empowering an officer to whom it was issued to enter by force, when necessary, any building to search for contraband goods supposed to be stored or hidden therein.

The Writs of Assistance asked were special search-warrants made out in blank, in which the officer serving them might fill in names at his discretion of persons and descriptions of buildings and goods, and in the hands of unscrupulous partisans of the government would have become instruments of tyranny to which the people would not tamely submit. The case was tried in the Council Chamber of the Old State House before five judges of the Superior Court, Chief Justice Hutchinson presiding.

Gridley, who had been appointed government counsel for the purpose, argued in favor of granting the writs, in a speech of great power, citing the statutes of Charles II. and William III. unrepealed, that they were legal unless the authority of Parliament to make laws for the colonies was to be denied. His plea was made in a calm and dignified manner, and his conclusions have been shared by able jurists of that and of later times.

Oxenbridge Thatcher followed him in opposition, and took the ground that issuance of the writs would be an unwarrantable stretch of Parliamentary authority applied to the colonies. James Otis argued on the same line in a speech of five hours' length, said to have been the greatest speech of modern times. He went beyond the legality of the question at issue, and took up the question of constitutional relations between the colonies and the mother country. His presentation was accompanied by masterly oratory which swayed his hearers and inflamed their minds with patriotic ardor, but not a word of the speech has been handed down to us in print.

John Adams, who was present, afterwards said of it "that on that day the child Independence was born."

Otis received an ovation from the people whose liberties and rights he had so ably and earnestly championed, in which, it has been said, Gridley, his teacher in the law, undemonstratively, but none the less true and heartfelt, joined.

The court withheld its decision until advice was received from the law officers of the crown in London, when at the next term it was ordered to grant the writs.

The customs officers, thus armed, broke into warehouses and seized goods said to have been smuggled, and in that manner confiscated private property valued at many thousands of pounds. Those acts, with others that followed, led to the war of the Revolution and the final separation of the colonies from British rule.

Gridley, for arguing in favor of those writs, has been, we think unjustly, called a Tory and blamed for his calm and dignified presentation of the legal side of the case. No good reason has been shown, however, why he did not do so as a jurist of high legal attainments and well-known integrity, without prejudice to his country or loss of honor to himself.

Later, when the Stamp Act had been passed, and in consequence of the disturbed state of the people, the courts were closed, the people of Boston in town meeting voted that Jeremiah Gridley, James Otis, and John Adams be applied to as counsel for the town to present a petition to His Excellency the Governor and the Council, praying "that the courts of law in this province be opened."

That would not have been done if Gridley had been a hated Tory, or had lost the confidence of the people. The gentlemen were privately and politely heard by the governor and Council, and civilly bowed out of their presence without having accomplished the object sought.

They continued, however, counsel for the town, at a time when to render legal service to patriots was not only a matter of professional difficulty, but of political and possible personal danger.

Had Gridley lived to see the Revolution inaugurated, we have no doubt but what, instead of siding with the Tories, his lot would have been cast with that of his brothers and nephews and with patriotic ardor for the rights of the country of his birth which his life had honored.

## JEREMY GRIDLEY AND THE BOSTON MARINE SOCIETY.

Gridley, in order to advance the interests of his country, and to give facility to trade, made a study of maritime law, and advised the merchants and shipmasters to insure their merchandise and ships at home instead of in England. To assist them he became interested in the Fellowship Club, composed of shipmasters, organized in June, 1742, as a charitable body, and which was chartered February 2, 1754, as the Marine Society at Boston in New England.

He was then at the height of his fame as a lawyer, when his opinions bore the weight of authority, and he drew the draft of the Society's charter, as we learn by the following extracts from the records:

"At a meeting of the Society held December 5, 1752, Voted That the Bill Exhibited by Jeremiah Gridley Esqr. this Evening and filed be presented to the General Court for the Society's Incorporation be accepted by the Society and preferred accordingly to the General Court for the obtaining a charter from this government."

"On February 2, 1754 the Charter was granted," and at a meeting of the Society held February 5, 1754, it was read to the members present when it was "Voted That Jeremiah Gridley, Esqr. be presented with the freedom of the Society for his Good Offices to the Society."

From that date he was recorded on the Society's books as a member. At that same meeting Jeremiah Gridley, Esqr., and four others were appointed a committee "To Devise a Seal for the Society and make a Report to ye Society ye next Tuesday Ensuing."

The record of the next meeting was on February 26, 1754, when it was "Voted That the draft of the Laws," evidently the By-laws, "presented this day by Jeremiah Gridley Esqr. be accepted." At that meeting it was also "Voted, That The Silver Seal cut by Mr. Nathaniel Hurd and now presented to the Society by the Committee for that purpose, representing a Ship arriving at the light House from a Storm and the Sun breaking through the Clouds with the Inscription Marine Society at Boston in New England A.D. 1754 be the Seal of this Society." And such has been the seal from that date to the present.

At a meeting of the Society held January 1, 1765, "Voted That A Craige J Prince W D Cheever J Homer be a Commit-

tee to wait on Jeremiah Gridley Esqr to present a petition to the Gen Court to obtain Liberty to erect a Light House on Nantuckett."

This is the last record concerning Gridley's connection with the Society, but enough is shown to prove his interest in and influence with its members to deserve the vote presenting him "with the freedom of the Society for his Good Offices to the Society."

But he was never its president, as has been stated elsewhere, nor could he have been, as he had not been a ship-master, as the laws and usages of the Society require to make one eligible for that office.

A score or more of the members of the Marine Society were also Masons. The meetings of the Society were often held at the places where the Grand Lodge met, but on different dates as a matter of course. Their aims and objects in a certain sense were charitable and the same spirit of fraternity prevailed among the members of both Societies.

## JEREMY GRIDLEY AS A RESIDENT OF BROOKLINE.

The exact date in which Jeremy Gridley took up his residence in Brookline is not known, but it was some time prior to May 19, 1755, as on that date "At a Meeting of the Inhabitants Legally called The Selectmen Moderating Voted To Send a Representative to ye Great & General Court this year Voted Jeremiah Gridley, Esqr. Chosen Representative." And for the years 1756 and 1758 "Voted Jeremiah Gridley Esqr. Chosen Representative."

At a meeting of the town held May 22, 1758, "Voted not to Send a Representative This Year Voted That Jeremiah



Gridley Esqr Henry Sewall Esqr Adjoin the Com'tee yt hath ye Care of the Estate of Edward Devotion Deceased."

At the town meeting held March 5, 1759, "Voted Jeremy Gridley Esqr Chosen Moderator" as he had been at two previous meetings, and "Voted Jeremiah Gridley Esqr Surveyor of highways for the Middle Part Sworn." Gridley was chosen moderator at the meeting of the town held "May ye 24th 1759," when it was "Voted that yt Jeremy Gridley Esqr & the Select Men be a Com'ty to Inform the Rev'd Mr. Potter of Votes Pas'd Relative to him" (which were in regard to his salary and settlement).

"Jeremy Gridley Esqr Chosen Moderator" at the meetings "June ye 13th 1759," and on "Octr ye 17 1759;" also on "December ye 19th 1759." The latter meeting was "Adjourned to Monday the 24th Instant at two of ye clock in ye afternoon." At the "Adjourned meeting at ye two of the Clock in ye afternoon P.M. Voted Jeremy Gridley Henry Sewall Esqrs Capt Craft, Deacon White, Deacon Davis, & Isaac Gardner be a Commity to wait on Mr. Joseph Jackson and acquaint him with these Votes."

The votes were in regard to his salary and settlement, "as ye Gospel Minister in this Town Provided he accepts the choice and be Ordained Accordingly." That meeting appears to have been held to consider the subject of the settlement of Rev. Joseph Jackson.

Here follows in the town records a report of a committee's transaction in the year 1756, regarding the disposition of "spaces or spots" in the meeting-house:

"Accordingly. We have Disposed of the spaces or spots on the Middle Side Next the Middle Ally to Jer Gridley Esqr He Paying to the Town Five Pounds Six Shillings & Eight p" — and other "spaces or spots" were disposed of to the other persons named in said report with prices paid



for same. Gridley at that time was a communicant of Trinity Church, Boston.

At the March meeting held in 1760, "Jeremy Gridley Esqr moderator Voted To Choose Five Select Men Voted Jeremy Gridley Henry Sewall Esqrs Deacon Ebenezer Davis Isaac Gardner Jun'r and Mr. John Harris Jun'r Select Men & Assessors Sworn."

At town meetings held on May 18, 1761, July 3, 1761, November 19, 1761, "Jeremy Gridley Esqr Chosen Moderator."

Here follows in the town records a copy of a deed of a wood lot in Needham estimated to contain twenty acres "to supply the Minister that may be settled in said Town of Brookline from time to time, given by Samuel White of Brooklyn, to the Select Men for the Consideration of the Sum of Forty pounds

"(Signed) SAMUEL WHITE.

"Signed Sealed and Delivered In Presence of us

"JER. GRIDLEY

"WILLIAM DAVIS

"SUFFOLK SS. March 12, 1759.

"The within named Samuel White acknowledged this Instrument to be his act and deed

"Before me

"JER. GRIDLEY,

"*Just. of Peace.*"

At a meeting of the town held "May ye 13, 1763," it was "Voted That the Attornies of Mrs. Mary Gatcomb be desired to receive the money which she as Executrix of Mr. Edward Devotion has Recovered against Mr. Solomon Hill on his Mortgage to said Devotion and pay what is the Town's due of it to the School Committee," etc. The attorneys

were "Jer. Gridley, Isaac Gardner, Robert Sharp & Thomas Aspinwall, who paid over "One hundred & twelve pounds one shilling Lawful money in full of all dues & Demands which Samuel White Esqr late of sd Brookline Deceased or us as Executors had on the Estate of sd Devotion or against his said Executrix.

"May 24 1762 (Received by) HENRY SEWALL,  
"EBENZ'R CRAFT."

The same date — "Rec'd of Jer Gridley, et als the Attornies paid Twenty Six pounds eighteen shillings & Eight pence for ye Payment of the Principal & Interest of my Bond to Edward Ruggles of Cambridge which I entered into on acc't of said Devotion Legacy to the Town of Brookline

"May 24 1762 (signed) ROBERT SHARP."

The same date — "Rec'd of Jer. Gridley et als fifteen Pounds & four pence Lawful money for purchase of a Silver Tankard for the Church of ye Town of Brookline according to ye will of Mr. Edward Devotion Dec'd.

"May 24 1762 (signed) ROBERT SHARP."

Jeremy Gridley was chosen moderator of the following town meetings: March 7, 1763; May 19, 1763; May 24, 1764; March 3, 1766; May 21, 1766; and March 2, 1767. At the last mentioned he was chosen a selectman and assessor.

At a meeting held May 25, 1767, he was chosen moderator, and after disposing of a part of the business the meeting "was adjourned to June ye 12th at 2 o'clock, A.M." (?) Probably P.M. was meant, but 2 A.M. on the record.

On June the 12th, "On account of Jer. Gridley Esqrs In disposition Voted that this Meeting be Adjourned to Monday the 29th Instant June at five of the Clock A.M." (?)

June 29th, "Voted that this meeting shall be further Adjourned for the above Reason Viz Jeremiah Gridley Esqrs Indisposition to ye July ye 13th Day at 4 of the Clock in the afternoon."

On "July ye 13th Day" Jeremiah Gridley, Esq., was present, acted as moderator, and the business of that much adjourned meeting was completed.

"At a Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Brookline Legally Warned" (no date given) "Jeremy Gridley was Unanimously Chosen Moderator," and here end the town records and the silence of death and the grave has ever since brooded over them concerning him.

It seems strange to us that he, who had been so prominent in town affairs, who had been representative to the Great and General Court for three years, a selectman at the time of his death, had served on many town committees and moderator of twenty-one town meetings, one of which had been three times adjourned on account of his illness, should lay down his gavel for the last time without a word being recorded in regard to his death.

Of his family and social life in Brookline no record has been found other than has already been noticed. It has been stated, however, that he was a bachelor. That could not have been the case, as the Boston and other records prove that he had daughters, Abigail, Sarah, and Rebecca, children "of Jeremiah Gridley and his wife Abigail." But of the date of their marriage and of his wife's death no record has been found, and it is likely that he was a widower while a resident of Brookline, which gave rise to the statement that he was a bachelor.

Jeremy Gridley was made a Freemason, May 11, 1748, in the First Lodge, now St. John's. He was Senior Warden of that Lodge in 1753 and Master in 1754. He represented

that Lodge at the Grand Lodge meetings in 1753, 1754, and 1755.

October 11, 1754, he was present at the Grand Lodge meeting in Concert Hall, at which meeting Bro. Benjamin Franklin was a visiting member. Thomas Oxnard, the Grand Master, having died, Past Grand Master Henry Price presided, and at that meeting "a petition was drawn and signed to the Grand Master of Great Britain for the appointment of Wor. Bro. Jeremy Gridley to be Grand Master of Masons for North America."

August 21, 1755, at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, held at the Royal Exchange Tavern, "Jeremy Gridley informed the Lodge 'that he had received a Deputation from Right Honourable and Right Worshipful James Brydges, Marquis of Carnavon, Grand Master of Masons,' appointing him Grand Master of North America where no Grand Master is at present appointed,' and delivered Our Right Wor. Bro. Price, his Deputation, who ordered it to be read and recorded in the Grand Lodge book."

Gridley was installed Grand Master of Masons, with due ceremony, at a Grand Lodge meeting in Concert Hall, October 1, 1755.

"The three Lodges in the Town, and the Master and Wardens of Portsmouth, N.H., Lodge, with a great Number of Brethren were present Cloathed with white Aprons and Gloves, and after the Installation accompanied the Grand Master, in Procession to Trinity Church, where Rev'd Mr. Hooper read Prayers, and Rev'd Mr. Brown (of Portsmouth) Preached an Excellent Sermon on the occasion to a numerous and Polite audience."

"After Service the procession was reformed and marched back to Concert Hall, where an Elegant Dinner was prepared, and the afternoon was Spent in Harmony and Mirth.

The whole Ceremony and attendance was with the greatest Decency and made a Genteel appearance."

Gridley was an able and beloved Grand Master, and devoted much time to the improvement and extension of Freemasonry within his jurisdiction, then embracing North America, in which the records show he was successful. At the beginning of his administration there were but sixteen chartered Lodges: 4 in Massachusetts, Connecticut, 3, and in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maryland, South Carolina, St. John, N.F., Annapolis, N.S., Halifax, N.S., and Antigua, W.I., one each.

At his death, twelve years thereafter, he had issued Warrants and Charters for twenty-two new Lodges: 5 in Massachusetts; Connecticut, 3; New York, 3; Rhode Island, 2; New Jersey, 2; and one each in Virginia, North Carolina, Louisburg, C.B., Quebec, Can., St. Christopher, W.I., Barbadoes, W.I., and Surinam, Dutch Guiana.

From his death to the close of the Revolution twenty-odd others were formed, all of which had an influence in mitigating the rigors of war not clearly understood nor fully realized by the public.

Jeremy Gridley died in Boston September 10, 1767, aged 66 years and 6 months. His death carried sorrow to the hearts of thousands of those who had known him through domestic, fraternal, and social ties, or had shared his friendship in other walks in life.

His abilities, magnetic influence, manly character, and generous nature won the praise of all, as was pictured, framed, and set forth in a unique obituary, which was printed in the Boston papers at the time of his death. And although appearing in the several papers, and with little change spread upon the Grand Lodge records, was evidently written by one who must have known him well, and

leads to the belief that it was the product of the brain and pen of his friend and former pupil, James Otis.

It is here given as printed in the "Boston Gazette" of Monday, September 14, 1767 :

"On Thursday last died here, Jeremy Gridley Esqr Attorney-General of the Province, and a Member of the General Court: His Funeral was attended on Saturday with the Respect due to his Memory by the Members of the Council and the Judges of the Superior Court in Town, the Gentlemen of the Bar, the Brethren of the Society of Free Masons, of which he was Grand Master, the officers of the First Regiment, of which he was Colonel, the Members of the Marine Society, of which he was President, and a great Number of the Gentlemen of the Town: —

"Strength of Understanding, Clearness of Apprehension, and Solidity of Judgment were cultivated in him by a liberal Education, and close thinking:

"His extensive Acquaintance with Classical, and almost every other part of Literature, gave him the first Rank among Men of Learning:

"His thorough knowledge of the Civil and Common law, which he had studied as a Science, founded in the Principles of Government, and the Nature of Man, justly placed him at the Head of his Profession:

"His tender Feelings relative to his natural and civil Ties; his exquisite Sensibility and generous Effusion of Soul for his Friends, were Proofs that his Heart was as Good as his Head was sound, and well qualified him to preside over that antient Society, whose Benevolent Constitutions do Honor to Mankind:

"He sustained the painful Attacks of Death with a Philosophical Calmness and Fortitude, that resulted from the steady Principles of his Religion. He died in the 62d year of his Age." (It should read 67th year of his age.)

It was appropriate that the funeral services of this distinguished man should be held in the Representatives' Chamber of the General Court House, in the place where he had won honor as a debater, and near the Council Room where his voice had been heard in forensic speech, and that it should also have been attended by the most august body of men the Province could produce, or had been gathered on such an occasion in its history.

The place of his sepulchre is tomb No. 9, Granary Burying Ground, erected by his father-in-law, Ezekiel Lewes, and unmarked with his name, but his name and fame will outlast, doubtless, bronze tablet or granite shaft, and be handed down to future generations as an example of what an American may become who possesses ability, honesty, generosity, and virtue.

If ever a monument should be raised to his memory, no more fitting inscription could be placed upon it than the words written (extempore) at the time of his death and printed with his obituary, which were :

“ JEREMIAH GRIDLEY BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

“ Of Parts and Learning, Wit and Worth possess'd,  
Gridley shone forth conspicuous o'er the rest ;  
In native Powers robust, and smit with Fame,  
The Genius brighten'd and the Spark took Flame ;  
Nature and Science wove the laurel Crown,  
Ambitious, each alike, conferr'd Renown. —  
High in the Dignity and Strength of Thought,  
The Maze of Knowledge sedulous he sought,  
With Mind Superior Studied and retain'd  
And Life and Property by Law sustain'd. —  
Generous and free, his lib'ral Hand he spread,  
Th' Oppress'd relieved, and for the Needy Plead ;  
Awake to Friendship, with the ties of Blood  
His Heart expanded and his Soul o'erflow'd. —  
Social in Converse, in the Senate brave,  
Gay e'en in Dignity, with Wisdom grave ;

Long to his Country and to Courts endear'd,  
The Judges honor'd and the Bar rever'd. —  
Rest ! Peaceful Shade ! innoxious as thy Walk  
May slander babble and may censure talk,  
Ne'er on thy Mem'ry Envy cast a Blot —  
But human Frailties in thy Worth forgot."



No. 2



## PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

# BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ELHANAN WINCHESTER

RECOLLECTIONS OF BROOKLINE

BROOKLINE VILLAGE, 1865 TO 1902



PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE  
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ELHANAN WINCHESTER

By JOHN EMORY HOAR

RECOLLECTIONS OF BROOKLINE

By MRS. MARY W. POOR

BROOKLINE VILLAGE, 1865 TO 1902

FROM NOTES BY MARTIN KINGMAN



BROOKLINE, MASS. :  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
M CM III



Gift  
The Society

12 1905







JOHN EMORY HOAR

*From a painting by Frederick P. Vinton  
in the Brookline High School*

In Memoriam  
JOHN EMORY HOAR

---

BY R. G. F. CANDAGE

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Since the last monthly meeting of the Brookline Historical Society, death has entered its circle of membership for the fourth time since its incorporation of less than a year, and this time has taken its first Vice-President, Mr. John Emory Hoar, who died at his late home on High street, after an illness of several weeks duration, on March 29, 1902.

Mr. Hoar was born on a farm in Poultney, Vermont, in 1828; he attended the public schools of his native town, spent two years at Middlebury College, Vermont, and then entered Harvard University, at which he was graduated in the Class of 1852.

After his graduation, teaching became his vocation. He taught one year in the Cambridge, Mass., High School, and in 1854 he came to Brookline to reside and to assume the principalship of the Brookline High School, to which he had been elected, and over which for thirty-four consecutive years he continued to preside with marked ability.

During that long period there were thousands of the youth of the town of both sexes under his care and instruction, by whom he was greatly beloved and highly respected, and for whose death they mourn the loss, not only of a loved teacher, but of a warm personal friend.

Mr. Hoar was also the first Librarian of the Brookline Public Library, having been appointed to that position in 1857, and continuing as such until 1871, when he resigned, that he might devote his whole time and thought to the increasing demands of the High School.

The success of the Library in its infancy was due to his wise care and nurture in a large measure, and to the assistance he received from his pupils in the school, whom he had enlisted in its behalf.



Like the competent commander he proved to be, he devised his plans and marshaled his forces with the forethought of success.

In 1874, at the annual meeting of the town, he with the Town Clerk and two others was appointed a committee "to have the records of the hamlet of Muddy River and of the town of Brookline down to the year 1837 printed for the use of the town."

In the preparation of those records for the press, which contain data of great historical value to every student of the settlement and the earlier events of the town, Mr. Hoar and the Town Clerk, it is understood, performed the greater part of the labor.

In 1895, he was elected by the town a Trustee of the Public Library, and continued a member thereof until his death. He possessed a wide knowledge of books and of authors and a just estimate of their influence upon the reading public, which made him a valuable member of the board of Trustees. His courtesy and regard for the feelings and opinions of those with whom he was associated, however widely they might differ from his own, greatly endeared him to the members of that board.

In 1897, he was elected by the town a member of the School Committee, a position his long acquaintance with the schools and experience as a teacher in the town qualified him to fill, and in which he continued until his decease.

For thirty years he was a member of the Brookline Thursday Club, resigning from it less than a year before his death on account of failing health and duties devolving upon him. In that organization, as in all others of which he was a member, he won the esteem and friendship of those with whom he was associated. He read before it many papers of excellence, and contributed in that and in other ways to its interest and success.

He was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in Beth-Horon Lodge, Brookline, in 1873, and remained a member thereof to the end of his life. He took a deep interest in the Lodge, and successively passed through the lower stations to reach the Master's chair in 1880, which he occupied for two years. As Master of the Lodge, his zeal for its welfare, his gentlemanly courtesy to all under him, im-

pressed themselves for good on the membership, as might have been expected of one possessing his education, moral fiber, and kindly nature.

He had been a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society since 1866, and was a member of the committee on papers and essays of that Society for the year 1902. He was greatly interested in genealogical and historical matters and in the meetings of the Society and its general welfare.

He was also a member of several other organizations and clubs, where he was appreciated and valued for his uniform kindness and friendships.

In the Brookline Historical Society, where he was Vice-President, to whose interests he was devoted, and before which he read a paper on Elhanan Winchester, and had in preparation another to be read when he was summoned to go home, we knew his worth and deeply feel his loss. He was a cheerful and ready friend to the Society's interests. When it was about to be formed he entered earnestly into the undertaking. When it was organized, his name appeared as one of its charter members, and on the roll of its officers his name also appeared as Vice-President, a Trustee, and on committees.

He gave promise of being a useful member for several years to come, and one of its strong supporters. He had a fondness for historic and genealogical research, the leisure and inclination to engage in it, the carefully trained habit of being correct in his work, nearly half a century's knowledge of life and experience in the town of his adoption, familiarity with its scenes, changes, and its older families, which qualified him for any office in the gift of the Society, or for almost any work which it saw fit to impose and he was willing to undertake in its behalf.

But alas! his work is done, and on us who are left rests the responsibility of taking it up where he rested, and of carrying it forward to the best of our ability.

During his nearly fifty years of residence, few persons, if any, exerted a greater influence upon the educational interests of the town than he, or left a more enduring impression upon the community. He possessed a just estimate of individuals, a high standard of moral rectitude, and was strong

in his friendships, qualities that won for him the regard and good opinion of all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

In his death this Society has lost a valued member and an honored officer, and we, its members, a personal friend, to whose memory and worth we place upon our records this memorial tribute.

According to the order of nature some of us should have gone before he was called, and must go sooner or later. With that thought in mind it may not be out of place to repeat lines bearing upon that subject, of an unknown poet, which are as follows :—

“Some time at eve when the tide ebbs low,  
 We'll slip our moorings and sail away  
 With no response to the friendly hail  
 Of kindred craft in life's busy bay ;  
 In the silent hush of twilight pale,  
 When night stoops down to embrace the day,  
 And voices call in the tide's outgo,  
 We'll slip our moorings and sail away !

“Through purple shadows that darkly trail  
 O'er ebbing tide of “The Unknown Sea,”  
 We shall speed away with flapping sail,  
 With but a ripple to tell the tale  
 Of a lone voyager sailing away  
 To Mystic Isles, where at anchor lay  
 The fleets of those who have sailed before,  
 ‘The Unknown Sea, to the Unknown Shore !’

“A few who watch as we sail away,  
 May miss our craft from life's busy bay ;  
 A few loving ones our hearts hold dear  
 In silent sorrow may drop a tear ;  
 But we shall have snugly furled our sails  
 At moorings sheltered from storms and gales,  
 And greeted friends that have sailed before,  
 ‘The Unknown Sea, to the Unknown Shore !’ ”

BROOKLINE, April 23, 1902.

# ELHANAN WINCHESTER

PREACHER AND TRAVELER\*

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BY JOHN EMORY HOAR

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The best men, the purest patriots, are not they who with Decatur say, my country right or wrong ; the best citizens, the profoundest statesmen, are not they who sacrifice to party what belongs to mankind ; rectitude is not always a synonym for expediency, nor duty for policy.

These reflections are suggested by the life of Rev. Elhanan Winchester, a native of Brookline, born Sept. 30, 1751, who died at Hartford, Conn., April 18, 1797. He was born in the old Sheafe house on Heath street, near where this street connects with Boylston street or the old Worcester turnpike. The place once belonged to Joshua Stedman, then to Joseph White, then to Deacon Elhanan Winchester, who was the father of the Rev. Elhanan Winchester, the subject of this paper ; it afterwards was the well-known Richards Hotel ; then it belonged to Mr. Petters, and later to Mark Wentworth Sheafe, whom some of us remember, and whose son Mark was a colonel in the late war for the Union, and was made general from South Dakota by President McKinley in the late Cuban War.

Rev. Elhanan Winchester was the eldest of fifteen children of Deacon Elhanan and Sarah Winchester, and was great-great-grandson of John Winchester,† who, when nineteen years old, came from England to Boston in 1635 in the same ship with Sir Henry Vane, who we all know the next year was elected the fourth governor of Massachusetts. Vane was

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\*A paper read before the Society November 27, 1901.

†John Winchester came in 1635 with Sir Henry Vane.

Josiah Winchester, m. Mary.

Dea. Elhanan Winchester, m. Mary.

Dea. Elhanan Winchester, m. Sarah ?

Rev. Elhanan Winchester, m. Alice Rogers of Rowley, 1770. 4 child.

m. Sarah Peck of Rehoboth, 1776. 2 child.

m. Sarah Luke of S. Carolina, 1778.

m. Mary Morgan, 1781 ; 2 child.

m. Maria Knowles, about 1784.

Of his eight children only one was born alive, and she lived only seventeen months.

admitted to the Church in Boston, Nov. 1, 1635 ; and Alexander Winchester,\* who was brother of John Winchester and servant to Sir Henry, was admitted to the same church with Vane on the eighth of the same month.

Alexander died without male issue, and John, therefore, became the ancestor of all the Winchesters in this country ; and some claim that there are more of this name in the country than of any other name, not excepting Smith and Jones.

The Winchesters settled in Brookline in 1650, about fifteen years after they came to this country. John Winchester was the first representative from Brookline to the General Court. His house was on Harvard street, nearly opposite the Devotion House, on the site where William J. Griggs' house now stands. His land extended from Harvard street to the top of "the Great Hill," now called Corey Hill. Nearly through the middle of that land now runs Winchester street, with great propriety so named. Nathan Winchester, a grandson of John Winchester, built the house standing a little way beyond William J. Griggs', usually called the David Coolidge house, which, though altered and much enlarged, still retains much of its original character. On that memorable nineteenth of April, some of the British troops on their march to Lexington stopped at this house for water to drink. The frightened inmates gave the water, but rejoiced with trembling to see the hated redcoats pass on.

The Winchester family also owned land on the west side of Corey Hill, even to Brighton line. Isaac Winchester had a house on Washington street on the site where is now the Corey stone house, occupied by the Misses Frye. As already stated the Winchesters also owned land on Heath street where lived Deacon Elhanan Winchester, the father of Rev. Elhanan ; the latter was born in the old Sheafe house, just about one hundred years after his ancestor John came to Brookline. He was a remarkable child, if we can credit all that is said of him. At five years of age he was regarded a good reader ; yet his opportunities for school were limited, for he went only a little while each winter till he was sixteen

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\*January 8, 1637, is the first mention of Alexander Winchester in Muddy River, when he received a Great Allotment there (presumably in the Southeast part of Longwood ?).

years old. His father had a family of fifteen children to support from his farm and a shoemaker's bench. Such, however, was the boy's ambition to learn, that, in addition to the studies taught in his school, he acquired some knowledge of Latin, and later a useful knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. His teachers were astonished at the facility with which he learned, and at his wonderful memory. Anecdotes are preserved to illustrate his remarkable memory.

Every accessible book he read with avidity. He began to preach and lecture when he was eighteen years old. Being brought up near the borders of Newton, he preached there, and is said to have been the father of the Baptist church in Newton. Nearly all its first members were baptized by him. Barry, in his "History of Framingham," makes the Winchesters the founders of the Baptist Church of Brookline.

At this time there was only one church in Brookline, the First Church, now called the Unitarian. The Baptist Church was organized about 1828, and the Congregational in 1844. There were a few families in the upper part of the town who were called "New Lights,"\* and held their meetings at private houses. Among these families of "New Lights" was that of Elhanan's father. The enthusiasm to which his temperament was predisposed was naturally cherished and increased by the "New Lights." He became a remarkably eloquent and successful preacher. We shall find him a great traveler. Soon after he began to preach he visited Canterbury, Conn. This was in 1771. There he was baptized and admitted to the Baptist church. Multitudes came to hear his eloquence and be magnetized by his zeal. From Canterbury he went to Rehoboth and there gathered a church of about seventy members. Here he adopted the plan of close communion. This divided his church, and he deemed it best to take a journey into New Hampshire and Vermont; then he went to Grafton, Mass., and preached. In due time he returned to Rehoboth; but as he found the trouble there had not subsided, he called a Council to mediate between him and the church. The Council decided "he had left an error to embrace the truth," but the people decided otherwise.

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\*The "New Lights" maintain a hope of the "restoration of all things." The hope is grounded on the implied failure of the redemptive work of the Saviour unless all for whom he died ultimately partake of salvation.



From Rehoboth he went to Bellingham, and soon became a thorough Calvinist preacher. In 1772, he went to Grafton and gathered audiences from Grafton, Upton and North-bridge. He next removed to Hull and preached nearly two years,—1773 and 1774. During this time he repeatedly visited his native place and preached with marked success in Brookline and Newton.

The latter part of 1774, by invitation he took charge of a Baptist Society in a town on the great Pec Dec river in South Carolina. In a few months he returned to New England for his wife, to take her with him to Carolina. They reached Virginia, where the wife was taken ill and died. After some months more in Carolina, in which he is said greatly to have benefited both the whites and the negroes, he came to Boston and supplied the First Baptist Church there while the pastor, Dr. Stillman, was in Philadelphia. Again he went to South Carolina, preaching on his way through Virginia. Within a short time he added to his church on the Pec Dec one hundred and forty whites ; he also baptized one hundred slaves. His opposition to slavery was well-known and this recommended him to the favorable attention of the slaves, while it did not make him offensive to the whites, as the feeling of the South then toward slavery was very different from what it became in the next century. Again he returned to New England, where he preached with applause and success for nine months. He was soon requested to preach to the Baptist church in Philadelphia. He consented, and such excitement was produced by his labors that his congregation grew too large for the meeting house, and St. Paul's, the Episcopal church, the largest in the city, was procured, and was filled to overflowing ; and most of the clergy of all denominations embraced every opportunity to hear him. It was at this time, when he was about thirty years old, that he embraced the doctrine of Universal Restoration, and to his death continued a devoted advocate of the doctrine.

Winchester's sincerity was never questioned. His nearest relatives fully believed in and trusted him. By his eloquence and reasoning, his father joined the "New Lights" ; and later under his son's preaching he became a Universal Restorationist, and died in this belief. But by embracing and



openly avowing this doctrine of Universal Restoration, the son Winchester divided his church in Philadelphia; a majority opposed him. The minority, however, with others who were continually joining him, formed another church and built a new meeting house in Lombard street, in which the First Universalist church of Philadelphia still worships. The famous Dr. Rush and other eminent men were not afraid to indorse and join him. Under his ministry this new society prospered six years. Then his brother Moses engaged to supply his pulpit while Elhanan, always exceedingly fond of travel, determined to visit England. He reached London in 1787, and for some years preached in Worship street Sunday mornings, and in the evening at Glass House Yard, till his friends engaged the chapel in Parliament Court. Here he held meetings while he stayed in England, making excursions from London to Chatham, Birmingham, Wisebeach and Fleet, and preached in nearly every Baptist meeting house in the county of Kent. Among his many followers in London was the distinguished Rev. William Vidler, who later supplied Winchester's pulpit in London.

Winchester returned to Boston again July 12, 1794, and immediately came here to Brookline, his native town. There was no Baptist society in Brookline at that time. But during the remainder of the summer and the following autumn he was constantly preaching in the vicinity of Boston and other parts of New England. A general convention of Universalists in September of that year met at Oxford, Massachusetts, in which Winchester was moderator.

About this time, writing to London, he says, "I have the greatest door open that I ever saw, insomuch that I am surprised at the alteration since I was last here. I have preached in a great many meeting houses of different denominations, and to great numbers of people, as often as eight or nine times a week, with greater acceptance than I ever did."

It was in the midst of this activity in 1794 that he was writing his answer to Tom Paine's "Age of Reason," published for him in Boston, in December of that year. Remarkable too, it is, how he continued to gratify his love for travel. And we should recall the facilities, or rather, the want or lack of facilities for travel which existed at that time. In the following year, 1795, he traveled extensively in almost

all parts of the country, particularly in the South. With his former society in Philadelphia, he met the celebrated Dr. Priestly, who was delivering a series of lectures there. He told Mr. Winchester's society there that he agreed with their minister in his doctrine of Universal Restoration.

From Philadelphia he went to Hartford, Connecticut, where on April 1, 1797, he delivered his last sermon. An increasing asthma had foretold a fatal termination; he died on the 18th of April, 1797, aged forty-six years and five months. He was a man of unquestioned honesty and honor, of uniform, cheerful serenity, of unconquerable benevolence and charity.

In his matrimonial relations he was unfortunate and deeply bereft. For his first wife he married Alice Rogers, of Rowley, in 1770, she died in 1776; for his second wife he married Sarah Peck, of Rehoboth, in 1776, she died in 1777; he then married Sarah Luke, of South Carolina, in 1778, she died in 1779; in 1781 he married Mary Morgan, she died in 1783; for his fifth wife he married Maria Knowles in 1784, who survived him. Though he had eight children not one survived him, and Rev. Elhanan Winchester has no descendant. He was the author of the following publications:—

New Book of Poems on Several Occasions, 1773. 1 vol.

Hymns, 1776. 1 vol.

The Universal Restoration; Exhibited in a Series of Dialogues, London, 1778. 1 vol.

Course of Lectures on the Prophecies that remain to be Fulfilled, 1789. 4 vols.

An Oration on the Discovery of America, 1792. 1 vol.

The Three Woe Trumpets, 1793. 1 vol.

Plain Political Catechism for Schools.

Progress and Empire of Christ, 1793. 1 vol.

He also published a number of single sermons.





THE OLD ASPINWALL HOUSE IN 1837

*Drawn by a draughtsman from Boston  
to be used as a frontispiece for a book  
of poems by William B. Taffan*

## RECOLLECTIONS OF BROOKLINE\*

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BY MRS. MARY W. POOR

(Daughter of Rev. John Pierce)

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Having been requested to write some of my recollections of Brookline in the eighteen hundred and twenties, I begin with the attempt to do justice to its great beauty in those days. Every one spoke of it as "Beautiful Brookline." This was partly due to the rolling and well wooded surface and to the splendid elms of uncommon size and picturesque shape that fairly embowered the village and a great part of the town. The queen of these noble trees was the "Aspinwall elm," which stood at the southwest corner of the old "Aspinwall house" very near the site of the Episcopal church. An immense tree stood in front of the old Punch Bowl Tavern, and noble specimens at the entrance of Walnut street, then called the "Sherburne Road," or more frequently the "Old Road." It seemed poor judgment on the part of the Selectmen to change this time-honored name to "Walnut street," and it showed a sad lack of originality on their part, since almost every town in New England has a "Walnut street," while few can have a "Sherburne Road." Dr. T. E. Francis wonders that no one has written of the immense locust trees that were then common in Brookline. These vied with the elms in size, if not in gracefulness. Two such trees stood in front of the parsonage of the First Church. Staples were driven into their trunks, to which horses were "hitched" while their owners were visiting the minister.

Cypress street, then called "The New Lane," (all the streets were lanes in those days,) was a dream of beauty. At the upper corner of what are now Boylston and Cypress streets was a pretty wood, and shrubs and many wild flowers grew down the hill. The brook, which was one of the beauties of old Brookline, here widened into a lovely little pond shaped like the shell named Pinna. It was shaded by a fine oak and was an ideal spot for children to play in when they ought to have been hurrying to school. From the brook nearly to the spot where the Bethany Sunday School now stands the New

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\* A paper read before the Society May 27, 1903.

Lane was a bower. Locust trees on both sides of the way met, making the road such an attraction for pedestrians that it was often called "Lovers' Lane." The roadsides of Brookline, without the aid of landscape gardeners, were in those days closely fringed with shrubs of native growth, barbery, privet, sumach, sweetbriar, and the like. Blackberries, thimbleberries and raspberries were trained over these bushes by nature gracefully, as her work is always done when she has her own way. The path of the truant schoolboy or girl was beset with snares. There were no sidewalks, and these lovely shrubberies were full of attractions for youthful feet where delicious fruit was to be had, without money and without price. What child, however a satisfactory breakfast he might have eaten at home, could resist the temptation to pick his own dessert as he went "creeping like a snail unwillingly to school"? The wonder is, that he ever arrived there at all. One of the loveliest of these lanes extended from the Meeting House on Walnut street up Warren street and through Clyde. It seemed a wicked act of desecration to change it into a vulgar "street," but villages will grow to towns, and wider thoroughfares are needed when a neighboring city begins to drive, for business or pleasure, through these suburban roadways.

The woods were filled with wild flowers many of which have been trampled out of existence by the march of civilization. In Trull's woods, afterwards Pierce's, now Codman's, were the loveliest anemones, and gayest of columbines, and the tallest blue violets I ever saw. There was one species of asclepias that I have never found elsewhere. That was destroyed in Mr. Silas Pierce's day by fires that ran through the woods to "destroy the underbrush." Alas for that fire! What treasures, dear to the heart of the botanist, were consumed by its devouring flames! We may see places as beautiful in the "sweet fields beyond the swelling flood," but never again shall we find in Brookline such hepaticas, such wild honeysuckles, and such mayflowers as every country child could gather for itself in those woods and swamps. Coming up Walnut street from the village were fine rocks by the roadside, covered with moss and columbines, just such as children love to play on. There is only one other person in Brookline who can recall the delights of those rocks.

A charming walk began on the other side of a stone wall, near where Cypress street now offers on open roadway. There we found cinnamon roses, "where once a garden smiled," and a path led through woods to an open ground where tradition said soldiers once manœuvered, thence up the hill where a gate in Mr. Thomas Lee's rustic fence gave an entrance to his beautiful grounds. Through these all quiet and harmless children were allowed to walk on their way to Jamaica Pond. If Mr. Lee happened to see them and to find that they were fond of flowers, he was wont to cut for them little bouquets of his precious specimens, and even to allow them to walk through his greenhouse. His "lawn" was our first realization of the meaning of that word, so common even then in English books. Blessed be his memory!

Longwood was another most attractive place. One went through the farm belonging to the old Aspinwall house and came to a long and delightful wooded hill from which the place derived its name. There were few flowers, but there was something fascinating even to a child in that long winding hill top, shaded by splendid trees, sloping on the side towards Boston to impassable swamps, and on the other side to cultivated fields.

The brooks of Brookline were most attractive. The one in the valley running south of Tappan street was not then shut in by stony walls, but rambled about in its own sweet way, singing as it went. At one spot it parted, making a little mossy island. We crossed on stepping-stones to this fairy islet, which was shaded by large trees and was a favorite resort and play-place for children. In the village this brook again widened into a pond, a delicious foot bath for droves of cows and oxen on their way from Brighton to their tragic end, and was a play-place for village boys and girls.

Another brook, which rose just beyond the present Boston Reservoir and is now turned out of its course and restrained from having its own way, ran under Boylston street, then called "the Turnpike," through the grounds of Mr. Benjamin Goddard, where was an artificial waterfall, my first ideal of Niagara. Then it went under the road again, and ran gracefully through land belonging to Mr. Sumner, thence to the estate of Mr. Thomas Walley, where it was encouraged to be as beautiful as art assisting nature could make it. It passed



by an ideal wood, where Mr. Walley built a large summer house and many a rustic seat. Having a fine taste, great love of nature, ample means and no business cares, he made it an object lesson for the town. After the place passed out of Mr. Walley's hands these fine trees were cut down for firewood. Colonel Thomas H. Perkins was at that time abroad, and when he came home and saw that this wood was gone, he greatly lamented that he had been absent when the deed was done, and said that he would have bought that wood for the sake of the pleasure of seeing it as he drove to Boston.

We were so accustomed to hearing our town called "beautiful Brookline," that we almost fancied the adjective to be a part of its real name. I will add two tributes from poets (*sic*) which are sincere if not sublime. One is from William B. Tappan, author of several volumes of verses, of which but two are likely to live—"Wake, isles of the South!" and "There is an hour of peaceful rest."

"I have revisited thy silvan scenes,  
 Brookline! in this the summer of my day.  
 Again have reveled in thy lovely vales,  
 And feasted vision on thy glorious hills;  
 As once I reveled, feasted, in the spring  
 Of careless, happy boyhood. . . .  
 The same thy hills and dells, those skies the same  
 Of rich October; such as only bend  
 Over New England; and the same gray walls,  
 Reared in New England's infancy, are those,  
 Which charmed imagination. Thou art fair,  
 And beautiful as ever. Fancy deems  
 Thy sweet retreat excused the common doom  
 Caused by the fall; as if the Architect  
 Were willing, by such specimen to show  
 What Eden in its primal beauty was."

The other poem is by Mr. B. B. Thacher, a young lawyer from Maine, who gave fair promise of success in periodical literature, but died young. It begins:—

"Sweet refuge in the shadow of green trees  
 Is this and fair to gaze on; he that sees  
 It lingers, and looks backward with a sigh  
 For beauty ne'er to be forgotten, so shall I."

On the lattice work of the summer house in Walley's grove were many impromptu verses and many names of visitors in pencil. If we had known that it was to be removed to Bradley Hill and turned into a dwelling house for laborers, we would have copied those of interest, which were many. That dear old Brookline has gone, never to return.

As Brookline has changed outwardly, so have its manners and customs. In those old days there was no attention paid to Christmas beyond saying, "I wish you a merry Christmas!" to the members of the family when we first met them in the morning. We never dreamed of its being made merrier than any other day. The schools went on as usual and no one expected a Christmas gift. We had New Year's presents instead. I never heard of Santa Claus till I was sixteen and then he was mentioned by a lady from New York. We knew that Catholic and Episcopal churches were dressed with evergreens at Christmas, and sometimes went to Boston to see them on that day. There were then one Catholic and three Episcopal churches in Boston. There was but one Irishman in Brookline. The few of the richer families in town who possessed greenhouses employed Scotch gardeners. We were all proud of Colonel Thomas H. Perkins' gardens and of him personally, as a prince among men. He invited all distinguished foreigners who came to this country, and many of our own men of note, to his house, where they were hospitably entertained. I dimly remember the excitement when General Lafayette came. All Brookline was on the *qui vivv*. Parties of ladies and children with offerings of flowers stood in the street to do homage to him as he passed in an open barouch to dine with Colonel Perkins. I was not one of these favored ones, being only three or four years old, but some of those to whom he spoke celebrated the anniversary of that rare event annually all the rest of their lives, especially one young girl whom he kissed in acknowledgment of the flowers she gave to him. I also remember my father's great enjoyment, in dining at Colonel Perkins' house, to meet Audubon and other distinguished men. There were then few public libraries, even in Boston, and those were not supplied with the most valuable books. Colonel Perkins was supposed to buy all that were worth reading and was most kind in lending them to his acquaintances. Many of them found their way to

the Parsonage. I remember that the moment a borrowed book came into that house it was carefully covered and placed on a shelf which children could not reach.

Captain Cook's place was a favorite haunt. He lived in the large house now occupied by Mr. Little, and built the picturesque cottage next to it on Cottage street for his son. He had between these houses a marble fountain surrounded by a small pond well stocked with gold and silver fishes, the first I had ever seen. He planted many fine trees and laid out the path which now runs some distance into the present Sargent place.

The *only* meeting house of Brookline was that of the First Parish, till a Baptist place of worship was built in 1828. It was a large building, with a spire like the one on the First Unitarian Church in Roxbury, which could be seen for a great distance in all directions and was near the geographical center of the town. It stood where Dr. Lyon's church now does, facing Walnut street, but a *little* further back. There was only room for a narrow path between it and the rocks. The meeting house was built on a foundation of long granite blocks such as are called "underpinning" in the country, leaving an open space or cellar under it. On the north and south sides were square air-holes, two on each side, directly opposite to each other. We thought it great fun to run to these holes and see each other's faces, which looked as if they were set in frames and very far off. I do not think they were large enough for us to crawl through and the great dark space looked scarcely inviting enough to induce us to make the attempt. We shouted to each other and our voices had a weird, unnatural sound.

In front of the meeting house was a graveled terrace surrounded by granite posts with two rows of iron chains hanging in loops between them. It had three front doors, the central one opened into a large porch which led to the broad or central aisle and was so high that it presented quite a grand appearance to a child. The other doors opened into smaller and lower porches and thence into the side aisles. In these porches were flights of stairs going up to the galleries, in which were three long rows of seats for the singers, and many pews. The house was warmed by two stoves which stood between the broad and the two side aisles. Iron pipes

ran from the whole length of the building to the windows in the back of the church. I recall the beauty of the smoke curling up from these pipes. As the minister read from the Psalms "Fire and hail, snow and vapor," I thought, "That is vapor praising the Lord!" Young hearts beat quick on the Sunday before Thanksgiving day when the minister unrolled the great proclamation and read it through to the end — "Levi Lincoln, Governor; Edward D. Bangs, Secretary. God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Levi Lincoln's name always stood in my recollection associated with unlimited turkey, goose, chicken pie, and every imaginable dinner delicacy known in those days.

A small flight of stairs from the northeastern side porch led to the third story of the meeting house, where was a long pew for colored people, raised as far above the singers' gallery as that was above the auditorium. When a little child, I used to amuse myself by looking at "Black Susie," who was stout and had such a round face that I fancied she resembled a full moon! She was for a long time the only specimen of the colored race in the town.

Above the stairs to the negro seats were rough steps leading to the belfry and thence to a charming room with windows on eight sides, whence were splendid views of Brookline, Boston, surrounding towns, and the Harbor. Comfortable seats under these windows provided a rest for feet weary with climbing so long a flight of stairs, and also standing places for children too little to see the prospect from the floor. They were forbidden to ascend to these heights without the escort of some older person, as the stairs had no side rails and were unsafe for careless climbers. If there was a steeple as high as that old one now on the same site, so different an outlook would be spread before the eye of an observer that there would be little likeness between the two pictures. As I lately looked from the third story of the Parsonage I saw but two familiar objects in the entire panorama, the dome of the State House and the spire of Park Street Church, and even the dome was greatly changed in consequence of being gilded. Not a trace remained of old Brookline. In 1844, some twenty years later than the time I have in mind as I write, there were but eighty-eight houses in the whole township of Brookline. I could not even guess how many that area now contains.

It was the custom when there was a funeral in town to send a boy to the highest open space in the steeple to watch for the funeral procession leaving the house of mourning. When it began to move the bell ringer would toll the bell till it reached the church. The memory of that dismal tolling haunts me still. It was called the "passing bell." I wondered when it would ring for me.

The pulpit was a high one approached by circular stairs on each side. The boots of ascending ministers had left marks on the uprights of these stairs which to a childish imagination, wearied by lengthy sermons that seemed interminable, represented pictures to be carefully studied. One resembled a group of people, another a woodside with trees and bushes, another fairies dancing, another a schoolmistress surrounded by her pupils, and so on. How little ones who sat too far from the pulpit to see these pictures endured the tedium of long services I could not imagine.

Everybody went to meeting in those days, both to morning and afternoon services. As I look back so many years I recall nothing whatever of the sermons, but every face in the audience is in my memory still, particularly that of the dear old lady who invariably repeated as she passed the Parsonage pew on going out, no matter who preached, "Truly a most excellent discourse." Among the leading figures was Deacon Goddard, then a tall, handsome young man, in the singing seats; the Miss Gardiners, who dressed in brighter colors than any other worshipers; in General Dearborn's pew, his daughter, Miss Julia, who seemed to me a perfect beauty; Mr. and Mrs. Caleb Clark, with their pew full of pretty children; old Captain Goddard, sometimes standing up to keep himself awake; and my uncle Charles Tappan, shaking his head at me when I was restless; the kind old ladies who had footstoves, which were filled with hot coals, of walnut wood, I suppose, which they passed over the tops of their pews to neighbors, after they had sufficiently warmed their own feet. It was a relief from the tedium of a long sermon to watch them.

One seat half way down the broad aisle was never vacant. Summer and winter, forenoon and afternoon, Mr. Thomas Aspinwall was always there. He had been deaf and dumb since an attack of scarlet fever in his early childhood, but



there were no more fervent worshipers than he. He would have been a fine subject for a poem by Whittier. As he was a frequent visitor at the Parsonage and very fond of children, I early learned to talk with him by signs after his own system of language, so that we understood one another well. I have still a set a mahogany bobbins he made for my mother, and a toy set he made for me. Talking in his sign language, when he had occasion to refer to me he held up his little finger to designate my small self, the youngest child in the Parsonage. Near his was the Hyslop pew with elegant upholstery and its hymn books bound in scarlet morocco, having book plates bearing the family coat of arms, and the legend, *By the name of Hyslop*. Mr. Hyslop died either before I was born or soon after, so I have no recollection of him personally, but his hymn books left a strong impression of earthly grandeur in my youthful mind.

Well I remember how on stinging cold winter mornings the people who had walked to meeting through the snow stamped their feet in the porches to rid themselves of it.

Miss Emily Marshall once came to meeting and sat in the Parsonage pew. I was too young to appreciate her beauty, which was as universally acknowledged by my elders as that of Sirius among the stars. She had, I believe, engaging manners and a perfect freedom from affectation, and well deserved the admiration she received.

It was my custom as soon as I saw Dr. Lowell in the pulpit, to find the hymn, "While Thee I seek, Protecting Power," and pass it to my mother, because I knew he would be sure to read it. I since learned that it was one of his favorite hymns but was not in the book used in his parish, so he always chose it when preaching in pulpits where he could find it. I am sorry I was too young to appreciate Dr. Channing's sermons when he exchanged with my father. I wish I could remember them as well as I do his face.

The Walnut street cemetery was the only burying ground in the town. It was much smaller than it now is, one acre having been set apart by the townspeople for the last resting place of their dead. A simple stone wall surrounded it. The entrance gate was below the brick tomb still remaining on Walnut street. The southwestern corner was a lovely spot. It was on the rising ground just beyond the unsightly

row of brick tombs now remaining. It was shaded by a fine walnut tree which spread its branches on all sides like a tent. Outside of this wall were barberry bushes and a sweet-briar bush of remarkable size and beauty. Looking over it on the south side one could see a beautiful little pond surrounded by lofty trees. This pond was large enough for boys to bathe in during the summer months and skate over in the winter. Beyond it were fine rocks. In 1826 Captain Oxnard, who then lived on Walnut street, having lost a little boy, greatly beloved and mourned, fixed upon this spot as the most appropriate that could be found for his darling to rest in, and little George was laid there and a white marble monument was set up to mark the spot. Near it the beloved teacher, George B. Emerson, had chosen a lot in which his young wife was laid. She was one who was spoken of by all who knew her as surpassingly lovely in person and character. Her monument still remains with the touching tribute to her excellence :

*Placuit omnibus cui satis uni placuisse.*

Alas ! that no picture of that secluded mossy corner exists except in the memory of one or two who still remain. Mr. Emerson now rests by the side of the wife of his youth, which still endears the spot to those who loved him. The corner itself has been sacrificed to the enlargement of the cemetery on three sides. It was doomed to as short a space of existence as that of the dear little boy who was its first tenant. The owner of the adjacent farm cut down the beautiful tree for firewood. The town frowned upon his action, on the ground that he had no right to the tree, which, standing in the wall, partly belonged to the public. But it was gone and no steps that could be taken would replace it and so nothing was done about it. Captain Oxnard was so grieved at its loss that he removed the remains of his little son and the monument, to Mount Auburn. The pond disappeared in consequence of the drainage of the low ground where Chestnut street now runs. The picturesque rocks were removed to make room for buildings and all the fine trees around the pond were cut down.

"Pierce Hall," a short distance east of the church, was built in 1824. The second floor was used as the Town Hall of the town. Meetings of various kinds were held in it and subsequently lyceum lectures. The first floor was a public



school room used only in the summer. It was an ill-lighted and gloomy room and its curriculum was of the simplest, including only "reading, writing and arithmetic." Some of the more public-spirited of Brookline's citizens aspired to have an elegant and attractive school in which their sons could be fitted for college. I believe Mr. Richard Sullivan was one of the most active in carrying out this scheme. A structure worthy of beautiful Brookline was the result. It was built in 1820 and was modeled from a Greek temple, with Doric pillars, and was considered perfect as a work of art. It was commonly called the "Classical School." Well do I remember going to an exhibition in that school when a very young child and can even now hear Mr. William Atkinson recite, "When I am dead no pageant train shall waste their sorrows o'er my bier," and my brother William follow with Rob Roy's "You speak like a boy . . . who thinks the auld gnarled oak can be twisted as easily as the young sapling," into which speech he was said to have put a great deal of sarcasm for so young a boy and was much applauded. Also I went to an exhibition of the effects of exhilarating gas which was administered to the pupils by their master with various ludicrous effects. Most of the boys were pugnacious and wildly attacked the master or any one who happened to be near. One, named John Randall, lay down on the platform and spouted, "Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean, roll," in a sentimental manner. Ellery Channing, afterwards a poet, leaped in the most extraordinary manner like a grasshopper over the heads of the boys on the platform and frightened me sadly lest he should come down on me.

The surroundings of this classic hall were lovely. Just behind it was the sweet spot since called "Brignal Banks," on the shore of the brook already described as the "New Lane" brook. Some time after, a Mr. Hubbard bought this schoolhouse and built directly behind it a boarding house and in front of it a wooden gymnasium, the first ever heard of in these regions. Years after, Dr. Shurtleff bought the house and used the gymnasium, which had been moved to the south of the house, for a stable. The dear old classical school became his drawing room. The change greatly detracted from the beauty of this gem of architecture as viewed from the street, but it was a fine drawing room.

The delightful social gatherings in those early days of the nineteenth century were different from anything now prevailing in any place known to me. Families met together, old and young. The circle comprising the Goddards, Heaths, Howes, Pennimans, Sumners, Searles, Dr. Wild's and other congenial families, were often invited to each other's houses, to spend evenings in music, dancing and friendly conversation. As the Heaths were an especially musical family and the sons, Charles and Frederick, had fine voices, a musical treat was always expected at their house. The brothers often invited young men from Boston who were in the habit of singing in quartets, or single voices of especial excellence, to assist in the entertainment. The dancing was simple, consisting chiefly of what were called "cotillions" and contradances. Round dances had not then arrived on this side of the Atlantic. We had never heard of the waltz except as it was mentioned in Miss Edgeworth's novel, "Patronage." The hero, Godfrey Percy, who was fascinated by a beautiful girl, sees her engage in this new dance and immediately decides to steel his heart against so dangerous a syren and actually succeeds in his attempt. The first time I ever saw waltzing was at a dancing class mostly consisting of Miss Lucy Searle's scholars taught by the elder Papanti. The great charm of the parties in those days was their perfect simplicity. The elders enjoyed seeing the younger people dance and joined in the sport when they felt so inclined. Dr. Wild's dancing was with his whole soul. He flew around like a joyous boy, the steps being after his own fashion, but nobody criticized, each being intent on enjoying him or herself and having a good time. These festivities closed by half past nine or ten, and the younger participants were as fresh and wide-awake at school the next day as if nothing out of the usual routine had happened the evening before.

Miss Lydia Greene was an acknowledged leader in society. Her opinion as to all the elegancies and proprieties of life was consulted by her circle of friends. I find in Miss Susan Heath's journal that she and her sisters went on one occasion to ask Miss Greene what they were to "think" about something they had seen in the papers. By position and example she was worthy of the consideration she received. She and her brother Simon lived in the house opposite the Heath

mansion, with their uncle, General Elliot, who was a brother of Mrs. Colonel Perkins. She was fond of young people and took great interest in the development of their minds and manners. We were all anxious to be approved by Miss Greene.

Madam Babcock was an object lesson in real old-fashioned gentility. She lived in the house now occupied by Miss Julia Goddard. The place was exquisitely kept. A walk having beds of lovely flowers on each side went quite round the place and there were beautiful trees and shrubs near the house. Madam Babcock always drove to meeting in a coach, with her footman, John Green, standing on a shelf behind, holding tassels which came from the top to keep himself steady. He sprang down the moment the coach stopped in front of the church, opened the door, let down the steps with solemn gravity and assisted his mistress to alight. When I was sent with a message to her house I always saw her sitting in the bow chamber in state. After I had delivered it she would tap upon a panel in the wall near her chair and John Green would immediately enter, so quickly that I fancied he always stood with his ear close to that panel. His mistress would then send him to fetch a piece of delicious hard gingerbread for my refreshment, and John was always despatched for a paper and string, and all that I had not eaten was put up for me to carry away for future use.

A rare house for children's parties was Captain Glover's in Cottage street, where Mr. and Mrs. Shepley now live. A Saturday afternoon spent there was something worth remembering all these years. Captain Glover and his wife were fond of children and knew how to entertain them. There was generally a gentle horse that we could ride on round the walks, and a small flat-bottomed boat we could row in around a very diminutive pond, also a barn well filled with hay over which we were allowed to frolic as much as we pleased. Captain Glover presented our brothers with a small fire-engine which had been used on board one of his vessels. The boys formed a fire brigade and were accustomed to parade on Saturday afternoons, clad in simple uniforms, their clothes being ornamented with scarlet flannel, offering to wash any windows needing their services, and feeling very grand and grown up.

May Day was always observed by the pupils of Miss Lucy Searle. It was a holiday and the scholars assembled on the Searle piazza provided with baskets containing their luncheon and together walked to some wood to spend the day. The favorite spot seemed to be a rocky pasture in Jamaica Plain then called Switzerland, but I remember one day spent in a summer house on the south shore of Jamaica Pond, and one, perhaps two, in Longwood. No grown person went with us and we were free to amuse ourselves as we liked. We wove a crown of flowers for our queen, who was voted into office as soon as we arrived on the spot chosen for our celebration. We picked great quantities of wild flowers, composed verses, such as they were, in honor of the queen, played simple games and never found the day too long. The fairy queen seemed to smile upon our pleasures. As I look back I remember but one rainy May Day.

The Walley family were popular neighbors. They lived on the spot where Mr. Stephen D. Bennett now resides. The place extended all over the land bounded by Cypress and Boylston streets, running behind the parsonage to the Sumner estate on the west. A beautiful brook ran through it. It had on Boylston street the charming grove before mentioned and on Walnut street a large garden with a summer house and seats. The house was a picturesque object with evergreen trees so close to the piazza as to make it always cool and shady in summer. On the first landing of the principal staircase was a round window that overlooked a large hall which was the theatre of festivities of all kinds. Mr. Walley married a beautiful heiress from Martinique named Feroline Lalong. They had six sons and six daughters; several of the latter inherited their mother's beauty and all were gay and pleasing. As Mrs. Walley was a Roman Catholic they were an important family in the church in Boston, the clergy of which were their constant guests. Bishop, afterwards Cardinal, Cheverus was there frequently. A small room or closet was fitted up for an oratory for his use, where candles were burning day and night. That closet was a dream of my childhood. I am not positive that I ever saw the inside of it with my bodily eyes, but it stands in my remembrance as clear a picture as any other in that old gallery. My father was very fond of Bishop Cheverus and learned

French in order to read many books recommended by him. When quite young I used to read Massillon to my father, learning to enjoy the charming style and spirit of his writings. Mr. Walley built a small schoolhouse on the corner of Boylston and Cypress streets for the benefit of his children and those of his neighbors. Miss Elizabeth Peabody taught there, among others. Perfect health reigned in the Walley family and no doctor ever entered the house. Mr. Walley used to say that the way to treat children was to throw them into snow banks and let them frolic in them as much as they pleased. In those simple days microbes were unknown. I doubt whether they existed. They probably developed late in crowded and dirty city tenements, and their best exterminators are certainly fresh air, pure water and cleanliness.

The Sullivan family lived on the spot since then and for a long time occupied by Mrs. Nathaniel Bowditch, and now covered with houses, thirteen in number, I believe, and Walnut street passes through it, ending at Dudley street. The Sullivans were a charming family. Mrs. Sullivan was one of the most beautiful and lovely human beings I ever saw, and her daughters were like her. Their great beauty and exquisite refinement could not be otherwise than a pride to the town so fortunate as to be their home. Mothers told their daughters to observe and copy their manners, but they might as well have asked them to imitate a rose or a violet. I have heard that one of them was the subject of Longfellow's lines in his poem "A Gleam of Sunshine:"

"Thy dress was like the lilies,  
And thy heart as pure as they;  
One of God's holy messengers  
Did walk with me that day."

Mary, the youngest was the idol of my childhood. She died when I was seven years old. We both went to a little school taught by Miss Alice Sumner, where she was always sweet and kind to me. Though so many years have passed, I can see her standing at her gate to be sure that I was going safely home.

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I must confess that there is one spot in Brookline quite as beautiful as it was in Auld Lang Syne, and that is Jamaica

Pond and its surroundings. The charming walks and drives around it, the removal of commonplace houses, and the taste displayed in the planting of trees and shrubs, which will be finer every successive year, show what art can do to heighten the charms of nature. All this is due in a great measure to the genius of Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted and that of his pupil Mr. Charles Eliot, whose excellent taste and skill could make even a wilderness blossom.

MARY W. POOR.



## BROOKLINE VILLAGE, 1865 TO 1902\*

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FROM NOTES OF MARTIN KINGMAN, ESQ.

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Interesting reminiscences of Brookline by Edward Atkinson, Esq., Charles H. Stearns, and others have in times past been printed in the Brookline Chronicle, which have prompted me to note down my recollections of Brookline Village from 1865 to the present time.

It is my purpose to confine my recollections to Washington street from the Roxbury line to the corners of Washington, Cypress, and School streets. This is not intended as a full history, as I am not an historian, but in my own way is a narration of my remembrance of that locality.

The construction of Riverdale Park occasioned the abandonment of Downer street, as it is remembered, to admit of a driveway to the Park, and May 8th, 1891, some thirty structures thereon were sold at public auction by Mr. McCormack for \$11,000. They were mostly removed to new sites on the borders of Parker Hill, Pond avenue, and elsewhere, effecting a radical change in that locality.

The actual beginning of the Village as it was, one may say, was at the old tavern which stood on the northeast corner of Brookline avenue and Washington street, known as the Punch Bowl, the second of the name in town, and an important hostelry before the advent of the railroad. It is said to have had large patronage, from other liquids than water for those who refreshed themselves at its bar. It was standing in 1865, I am informed, and then occupied for a dwelling, but was later demolished to make way for the works of the Brookline Gas Light Company, under the superintendence of Mr. Freeman Sherman.

On the opposite side of Washington street was the Kimball farm, formerly Ward's farm. The house on the farm is still standing, though hidden from view of passers by a low block of stores in front, and has been used in recent years as a kindergarten school and day nursery for children. For many years that neighborhood was known as the "Punch Bowl Village." The gas company's plant, upon removal of the

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\*A paper read before the Society December 17, 1902.

works to Brighton, was idle until the building on the corner was made into a bowling alley, and it is now again used for purposes of the company.

Next to the gas company's office stands the Downer-Griggs house, which has had many owners and occupants, but is now a dilapidated, vacant wreck, a reminder of the past. The adjoining estate was that of Edward Devotion, who removed thither from Harvard street, and died in the old house recently demolished, in 1744. For many years this has been known as the Lemuel Foster estate, upon which now stands Nagle's blacksmith shop. On the corner of Washington and Pearl streets, next to the Foster estate, stands the paint shop occupied many years by Benjamin F. Baker, Esq., our late Town Clerk and fellow-townsmen, and still in use by Mr. Daniel Hunt as a paint shop. Other buildings on the right, as one moves along, remain much as they were in 1865, one of them being where the late John McCormack had his tailor shop and kept the post-office in the fifties.

The next building of importance is Lyceum Hall, built by the late Samuel A. Walker in the forties. Mr. Walker was a well-known real estate auctioneer in Brookline, whose poetic advertisements of real estate are probably remembered by older residents of the town. In its earlier days that hall was the scene of many a dance and festivity, but few of those who shared in them are left. Beth-horon Lodge of A. F. and A. M. held its meetings in the old hall from 1870 to the time of removal to the corner of Harvard and School streets. It was on and near this site, and northward to where the railroad now is, that the first Punch Bowl Tavern is said to have stood. Other old buildings stood in this vicinity in 1865, which were reminders of old bits of Portsmouth, Salem, and Marblehead. Near by was Whitney's Hotel, afterwards Darrah's, later and now Morlock's hotel, bakery, and store. Further on towards the railroad was and still is Russell's Block, in which Marshall Russell, the owner, carried on his grocery in 1865. He was succeeded by Thomas T. Robinson, Grafton Richards, and now by Fay in the dry goods line. Brown Brothers, provision dealers, began business in that block some thirty years ago, and that business is continued by Colby Brown, son of Thomas S. Brown. In that block also is the kitchen-ware shop of Mr. Levien, while the floors above are occupied as tenements.



Farther on the decline towards the railroad was the dry goods and shoe store of Mrs. Dorothy, now the property of Peter Keiser, where he is located as a barber, he being the oldest established barber in the town. Near Mrs. Dorothy's stood a small wooden building belonging to Adam Halfenstein and occupied by him as a tailor shop, called "The Arcade." It was later moved to White place, and on its site at the corner of Fay place, was built Halfenstein's brick block, prior to widening the bridge and street in 1886. In one store of that block is the boot and shoe store of Edward McAvoy, and in the other a grocery which has had several proprietors, one having been Mr. Halfenstein's son. On the site of the Boynton brick block stood an old wooden building which had several owners, the last before its sale to Boynton, if memory serves me, being Mrs. Maloney. In the basement of that house, early in the sixties, Frederick A. and Theodore F. Corey opened a provision store, or meat market, said to have been the first of its kind in the town. Later L. M. Perry carried on his furniture and upholstery in that building, and J. H. Grush, up a flight of steps, had his barber shop and newspaper stand. Mr. Grush was a constable and an ardent temperance man, who, when not cutting hair or selling papers, kept his eye open to seize upon those who indulged too deeply in "tangle foot" and escort them to the lock-up in the basement of the old Town Hall.

Boynton's Block was erected after the bridge and street widening upon the site of the Mahony house, and the dry goods store in it, the largest in town, is now conducted by George F. Boynton & Co. George F. Boynton began business where Levien's store now is, I think, the firm name then being Martin & Boynton. After Mr. Martin's retirement the firm's name was changed to Boynton Brothers. Mr. A. M. Defriez, I remember, was in the dry goods business farther down the street. In the old days there was a row of wooden posts on the south side of the railroad tracks to prevent teams from driving across.

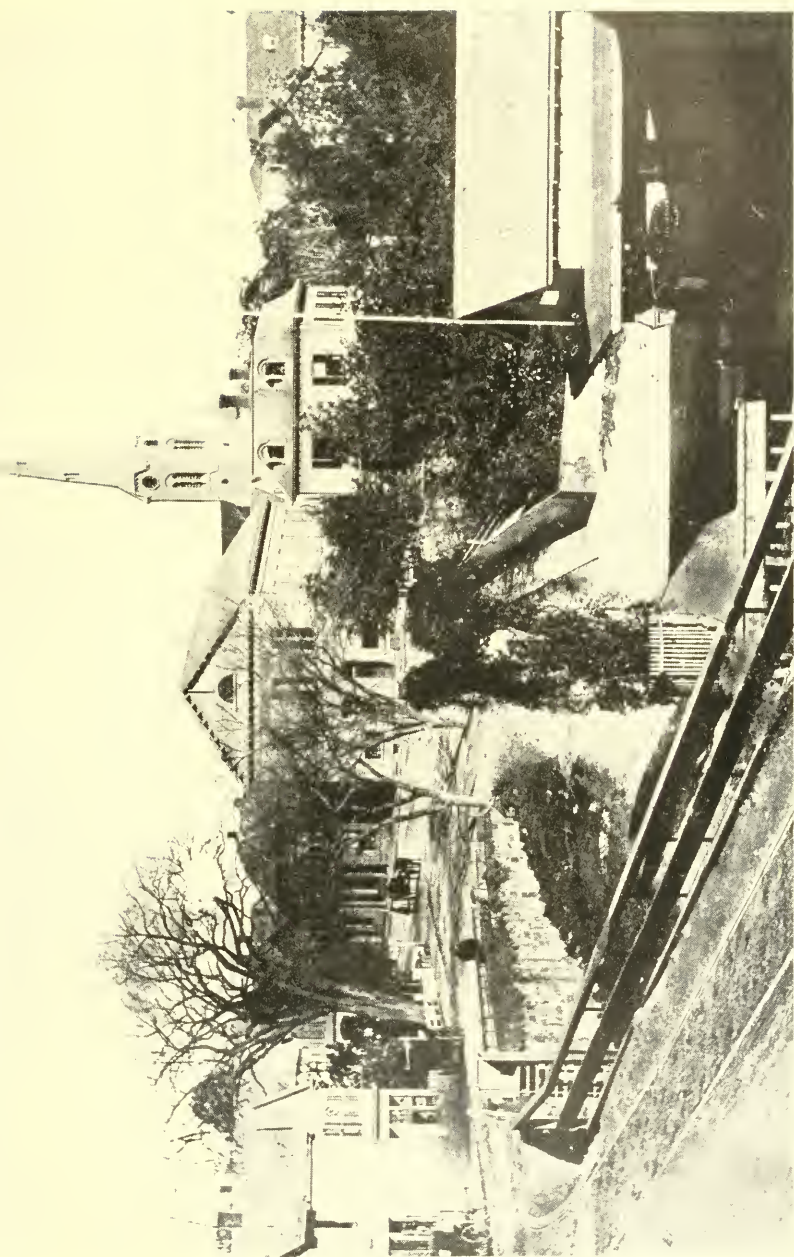
Let us now return to the Kimball farm on the west side of Washington street and note some of the changes that have occurred upon it and that side of the street since 1865. It was an open cultivated farm at that date, but is now intersected with streets and covered with dwellings. The old Barnard

house, then occupied by Osavius Verney, whose wife was a Barnard, was sold some years since to Clement K. Fay, Esq., and was removed. John F. Fleming, the electrician, recently built upon the site a one-story wooden building, and removed thither from Harvard square. Farther on is a high board fence facing the street, on which are posted, in flaming colors, theater and other bills.

On the site of the old omnibus stables are Quinlan's and Driscoll's stables, the former of wood and the latter of brick, erected in the lifetime of the late James Driscoll, contractor, and now occupied by his son James, who succeeded to his business.

Between the Driscoll stable and Morss avenue stand several buildings, one of which is of brick of imposing appearance, built by the late Jeremiah Guilfoye a few years ago as an apartment house, with stores on the ground floor. On the site of the old Brookline House, kept by Aaron Whitney, now stands the picturesque office of the Jordan Coal Co. Next, and in the rear of the street, are the old station and stables of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company, later the West End Street Railway Company, and now used as a riding academy. Here formerly stood the home of Miss Harriet Woods, writer of Brookline "Historical Sketches," a Brookline school teacher, and a writer of literary taste and ability.

Whyte's Block, built since 1865, harmonizes with old Brookline Village, having its row of stores, news stands, fruit and cigar shops, Chinese laundries, cobbler shops, etc. Some may remember, as does the writer, when Peter Keiser, the barber, had his shop in this block, at the beginning of his career in town, and who later moved to his shop opposite. There, too, Barthelmes continued work as a barber until his removal to the corner of Harvard street and Aspinwall avenue. The engine and hose company buildings of the fire department were built about 1870, at the time water was introduced into the town from Charles River. On the corner beyond stood the shop, then as now, of the "Village Blacksmith," Royal Woodward, an honest man and a right good fellow, who died in 1892. His successor, P. J. Burns, who was with Mr. Woodward, continues the business at the old stand. Upon the other corner of High street is the carriage shop of Mr. Michael W. Quinlan, known and respected far and near for good and faithful work.



BROOKLINE VILLAGE IN 1865



Before crossing the street let us consider some of the changes that have taken place in the bridge, street, and street-car travel. The greatest of all improvements has been the abolition of the liquor saloons that formerly cursed the lower village. The old car station was abandoned after the introduction of electric cars, and the new waiting room opened in Whyte's Block. Many may remember the veteran horse-car driver, Mr. William H. Bellows, whose age and infirmities caused him to resign his position after thirty-one years' service, in which he had traveled upon his car 570,175 miles, or more than twenty-two times the circumference of the earth, averaging but a few weeks off duty in all those years from illness or vacation. He survived but a few years after retirement, and his funeral car was a street-railway carriage decorated with flowers, and followed to his last resting place by a large number of street-railway employees. In the earlier years of this sketch the horse cars were drawn over the bridge every half-hour, to the corners of Washington and School streets and corners of Harvard and Washington streets, alternately. When interrupted with snow each car required four horses, and the time was lengthened to an hour each trip. The fares were ten cents each, or twelve coupon tickets for a dollar. To those who have seen the photographic views of the village as it appeared in 1865, looking from this point over the railroad bridge to Harvard square, this sketch will appear more intelligible. And those who have read "Brookline, a Favored Town," with its historical sketches and views, will better appreciate this feeble attempt of mine.

Across Boylston street from Whyte's Block and on the corner stands Guild's Block, of brick, in which was Guild's grocery store, kept by him for many years and until a few years before his death, in 1890, when he was succeeded by Francis H. Bacon, who died in 1898, when the business passed into the hands of the present proprietors, T. F. McMahon & Co.

Around the corner on Washington street is the bakery and bread store of Miss Julia Hayes, who has occupied her present place of business for the past thirty years or more, and is well known for her honesty, uprightness, and fair dealing. In that building in the first few years of this sketch, until his death in 1872, was Benjamin H. Crosby in the fish business, who was



succeeded by George P. Johnson in the same line, the present occupant. In that block through all the years of this sketch has been the sign of Horace James, mason and contractor, a Selectman of the town for thirty-eight years, an honored man, and one confided in, both in official and business life. Up two flights of stairs, one winds his way to Goddard Hall, named for the late venerable Deacon Abijah W. Goddard, the apostle of temperance in the town. The upper story of this building was added by Mr. Guild in the late sixties for occupation of the Good Templars. The Bethany Sunday-school had its beginning in that hall, and in it the Presbyterian Church worshiped until the completion of their church on Prospect street. In that block, too, the Sullivans, plumbers, until recently had their office.

Next to the railroad and bridge is the old Webber house with its two stories or more of basement below the bridge, reminding one of an iceberg floating with its smallest part above water. In former days it reminded one somewhat of the old Willey House, at the entrance to the Crawford Notch in the White Mountains. This old house has been occupied by various parties, at one time by the late James H. Murphy, the well-known shoemaker, who later located across the bridge at the corner of White place. He died in 1899.

The bridge at the time this narrative begins had two arches, one for the passage of trains and the other for entrance to White place. To enter White place from the bridge one descended a flight of wooden steps on the easterly side by the retaining wall, and thence through a driveway underneath leading from the station; but if by carriage, one went on to the beginning of the decline and down to the driveway under the bridge. The widening of the bridge in 1886 changed all this, making the entrance to White place directly from the bridge, with Halfenstein's tailor shop facing the street. Proceeding on from the bridge, on the left, we find the old frame structure formerly known as "Mechanics' Block," but now called "Dun-Edin," for the old name of Edinburgh, Scotland, the native place of its former owner, Mr. John Panter. Different parties have occupied this building in the past, among them White, Mayo, and Paine, succeeded by Ruggles, Mayo, and Paine, and Mayo & Paine, plumbers. Mr. Henry K. Paine, a member of those firms, removed to a

store on the east side of Harvard Square. Thomas Mahon, the plumber, has for a series of years had an office in that building, also Mr. Flatley and others.

The next place of prominence is the paint shop of the late James B. Hand, who died in 1900, leaving the establishment and business to his sons.

The brick building of Mr. Reuben A. Chace next claims attention. Mr. Chace was also a prominent house painter in town for many years, retiring a few years ago, and is still hale and hearty. For awhile after his retirement his shop was occupied as a provision store, and later by the Johnson Fish Co., and at this writing by James H. Boody, painter, who was formerly a foreman for Mr. Chace.

Next in order is the store of Kenrick Brothers, established by their father, Mr. Alfred Kenrick, many years ago, in the tin, plumbing, and stove business. Mr. Kenrick, senior, died in 1884. He was a public-spirited man, and devoted much time to the town's welfare without seeking office. He was also devoted to temperance work, and was a good citizen. His sons continue the business, having added to it from time to time until, as the oldest of its kind in town, it is in its way a model establishment. At the time the bridge was widened their store was enlarged, a story added and the structure modernized.

The drug store of George W. Bird, who came to town in 1850, next claims our attention. He continued in business until July, 1886, when he was injured by a runaway horse, causing him to give up business, and probably hastened his death, which occurred in 1895. That line of business has been carried on at the old stand since the retirement of Mr. Bird by Young & Brown, now in the fine new brick block owned by the Bird estate, called "The Algonquin." Another store in that block is now occupied by Frederick E. Palmer, florist.

Let us now cross the street to the railroad station as it was in 1865, with its mourning drapery for the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. It was a long wooden building for passengers and store-house for freight, antiquated, but in harmony with its surroundings at that period. The Brookline branch of the Boston & Worcester Railroad ended at the Brookline station. Beyond it was the Boston, Hartford & Erie and Air line, now the Newton Circuit of the Boston & Albany. Hon.



Ginery Twichell was president of the Boston & Worcester road. Cyrus W. Ruggles was station-master and postmaster, the post-office being located in the depot. There was a bell on the depot building that was rung five minutes before the departure of trains for Boston to warn passengers to be on hand. Abiel Smith, a lame man, attended the switches and had carriages in waiting near the station for the accommodation of passengers.

John Gibson, a popular conductor on the road, is remembered; also Andrew Winslow, the engineer, Mr. Andrews, the conductor, and Ginery Twichell Davis, the engineer, Moses Eastman, conductor, and James Alger, engineer. Everybody who rode on the train knew Moses Eastman, the genial conductor. We knew him when a driver on the Metropolitan horse cars, before the time when this sketch began, afterwards conductor on street cars, as brakeman on the Brookline Branch Railroad, and then as conductor, in which latter position he remained until his death in 1876. He was affable, kind, and known to all who traveled on the road and was familiarly called "Moses." His wife was Emeline C. Tolman, a young lady born and educated in Brookline, who recently read a paper before the Brookline Historical Society on "Muddy River or Colonial Brookline."

The old depot was replaced by the present one at the time of the bridge widening and moved farther east, and the post-office was transferred to its present locality in Harvard Square. The grade of Washington street below the Square was raised to conform to the height of the new bridge and an incline was constructed from the same to the new depot. These improvements made changes in and about the bridge and Square. The passage under the bridge to White place was filled, and the retaining wall on the easterly side of the old bridge was hidden from view by the widening and is now remembered only by the older portions of the community. Between the old depot and Andem place until some time in the late sixties or in the early seventies, was an open pasture, which is now covered with brick buildings. Of the three blocks in that row, the two upper were first built. In the lower block of Colonnade Row, next the station, in 1872, George F. Joyce & Co., began their career in Brookline. Mr. Joyce shortly after moved to Panter's Building, owned by John Panter,

owner of the "Colonnade." Mr. George E. Everett, his partner, retired from the firm and he and Mr. Nash carried on the grocery business for awhile at the corner, after which Nelson Brothers opened their store at that place. The hotel (landlord Perkins) had the next entrance and a dining room, which was later added to Nelson Brothers' store.

I can only recall a part of those who have been located in stores of these buildings. Edwin F. Crosby, the plumber, has occupied one for many years. There were also others who were shoe dealers, Faxon, Chaplin, Meggett, Fegan, and lastly McElroy Brothers. H. Frank Rice took a store in the center block soon after its completion and kept on sale a line of fancy goods, stationery, magazines, etc. He was followed in that store by Wing & Arthur, proprietors and publishers of the Brookline Chronicle, and then by Mr. Wing alone. Then followed John T. O'Day, who succeeded Mr. Grush in newspaper business in the Mahony house across the railroad. He extended the paper business in town, his sister being his assistant, and after his inability she conducted the business.

The O'Day's were succeeded by Miss Esther Pratt, afterwards Mrs. Cilley, who displayed business tact and extended that line of business, and continued therein for many years. She was succeeded by William D. Paine, who has farther extended the business and lately moved into larger and more convenient quarters next the drug store at the corner of Andem place.

In the middle block in the early seventies, George Turnbull, the tailor, was located, his being the first tailoring establishment of the kind in town. Edward W. Packard, previously of Burt & Packard, was located in this block during the eighties. Walter Martin, formerly of the firm of Martin & Boynton, carried on the dry goods business in a store of this block for a short time, and was succeeded by Charles F. Lamb for some years, and then the business was continued for a period by George Defriez.

The Brookline Savings Bank was located in this block for awhile. E. E. Pierce, the baker and caterer, is now and has been located in the block for some years. On the completion of the upper block in the row, Charles Ladd opened a family drug store therein. Frank A. Newell occupied the corner store as a jeweler and silversmith, after which it was occupied

by Charles D. Austin as a hardware store, then by George E. Everett in the same line, until the stock was sold and moved across the Square to the St. Andrew Building, and the business was there continued by Thomas J. Murray. William Butler next occupied the corner store of the block as a druggist; of more recent date others have occupied it. That has been a prominent place of business.

The Catholic Church was in Andem place until the erection of their new church on the corner of Harvard street and Linden place in 1882, and its congregation passed the corner going to and from the same. Rev. J. M. Finotti, the pastor, and his brother Chevalier G. M. Finotti, Vice-Consul for Italy, residents of the town, are well and favorably remembered by the older people. Where Rooney's shoe store now is, in 1865 the building was a boarding house kept by Mrs. Mecuen. Mr. James Rooney had it raised up one story and located his store in the lower part, he removing thither from Panter's Building. Mr. Rooney learned his trade of shoemaker in the town, of Mr. Tolman; he was a thrifty man and died respected in 1899. His son James C. Rooney continued the business after his father's death. In the other store in that building Mayo & Paine carried on business, removing thence from across the Square. For many years the firm, with changes in its name to Paine Brothers, (Mr. Isaac Paine, brother of Henry K. Paine, being taken in when Mr. Mayo went out,) have done business there. Mr. James Rooney erected the brick block on the corner of the Square and Harrison place, now Kent street, about 1880, and after that the one-story building between it and Paine's store.

In the one-story building Henry Collins, provision dealer, was located until recently, when he was succeeded by Horace E. Smith, who was many years employed by Mr. Collins. In the brick block the late Alfred A. Cheney, watchmaker and jeweler, carried on business until his death in 1891. He first established himself in town, below the bridge, in 1862. After Mr. Cheney's death Charles W. Morse succeeded to the place and business, removing thither from the St. Andrew Building, where he had been located some years. The store on the corner of Harvard Square and Harrison place, now Kent street, was first occupied by a Mr. Hamilton in the dry goods business, and afterwards until the present time by

Clarence A. Delano in the same line of business, in which he has been successful.

In Panter's Building between Harvard and Washington street facing Harvard Square, was located James Rooney in the boot and shoe business until his removal already spoken of. In the other store of the building Mrs. Ruth A. West kept a millinery establishment. She afterwards located in the building sold to Mr. Goldsmith, and by his heirs to the Brookline Savings Bank. After that she kept the boarding house on Kent street in the rear of the National Bank, then built a house on Stearns road where she resided several years, then removed to and died at the house of her daughter in Philadelphia in 1896.

In the store of the second floor of Panter's building E. S. Ritchie & Sons carried on the manufacture of philosophical instruments and marine spirit compasses. They removed from that locality in the seventies to their present place of business on Cypress street. Near that time the property was purchased by Mr. George F. Joyce, upon the ground floor of which he carried on the grocery business. After the removal of the Ritchies, the second story was and has been used by the Chronicle printing establishment and other smaller concerns. The attic was finished into a hall for concerts, dances and lodge purposes. On the lower floor on Harvard street, where the Chronicle office now is, was for years the drug store of Warren G. Currier. On the Harvard street corner is and has been since Mr. Joyce gave up business, the grocery of Frank F. Seamans, formerly with his brother James M., on the corner of Harvard square and Davis avenue. In the other half of the front, Collins & Dyer carried on the provision business, they being, except Brown Brothers, the oldest in that line in town. Collins & Dyer dissolved, Mr. Dyer retaining the store, and Mr. Collins, as we have already seen, opened in Rooney's one-story building on the east side of the Square.

The one-story building between Joyce's Building and the first Post Office was built in the seventies, and has been occupied by John Thompson and his son Nelson, in the furniture and upholstery business, to the present time. Where the post-office now is was another grocery, in 1865 or thereabouts carried on by Oliver and John E. Cousens, the

former now in Maine and the latter now the well known coal dealer. After they gave up, the business was continued by Hunting and Larnard. Next, the place was used as a post-office when that was moved up from the railroad station. Cyrus W. Ruggles continued as postmaster until succeeded by the present superintendent, Mr. I. M. Fogerty. Over the post-office have resided Mr. George F. Joyce and others.

In looking down toward the bridge from Harvard Square one is made aware of the changes that have taken place in that locality since 1865, not only in the buildings, but in the persons that have occupied them. A few of the former are left, but the great majority are gone to other places, or to their final homes. One realizes by the review that the business movement has steadily been northward. He would also be reminded of the Brookline Cornet Band which played in and about the Square in the sixties and early seventies. Composing it were Henry Corey, Henry Collins Moses Jones, A. A. Cheney, Charles and William Trowbridge, Watts H. Bowker, Eugene E. Morse, and possibly others not now called to mind. Mr. Morse was the junior member and drummer boy. Mr. Cheney was instrumental in having flags displayed in and about the Square on patriotic occasions. For reasons not now known the Band played its last tune with its usual vigor, and then went out of existence.

Concrete sidewalks, brick-paved squares, electric railways, steam fire-engines, electric fire and police alarms, water hydrants and drinking fountains, all have been introduced with other improvements into the town since 1865. The bridge, Square, and Harvard and Washington streets have been widened; and Station street, Kent street and Davis avenue, leading into the Square, have been laid out and widened, giving to the locality a changed and improved aspect.

The building west of the post-office, known as the Savings Bank building until the bank removed to its new quarters farther up the street, has been occupied for offices by the Suburban newspaper, telegraph, real estate, jewelers, and tobacconist shops. The Panter estate adjoining, now owned and occupied by other parties, retains its rural features, trees, shrubbery and lawn, with which its former owner tastefully arranged it. Caledonia Cottage has been occupied for many years by Dr. Martha G. Champlin, and the other house on the



lot by Mr. Woodberry, by the Assessors of the town, and by Mr. Riley of the Water Board. Next to the Panter estate is the furniture store of Robart Brothers, in the front lawn of the house built by Mr. Holbrook, a carpenter, who built the First Parish Church in 1848, and afterwards owned and occupied by Mr. Smith's son-in-law. In that house have resided Lyman B. Brooks, Dr. S. W. Sanford (who died there in 1875), and Dr. Ira B. Cushing. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. Robart.

On Holden street, in the rear of Robart's, is the house owned and occupied by Benjamin F. Hobart, until his removal to Boston in the seventies. Mr. Hobart was the omnibus driver between Brookline and Boston at the opening of the Brookline Branch Railroad, when he was made conductor on the Boston & Worcester railroad and later station master at Boston until his death. Mr. Grafton W. Stone, the stable keeper, was the next occupant of the house until his death in 1879, when it was purchased by our townsman Willard Y. Gross, who still occupies it. Next to that house and near the Baptist Church is and has been the residence for many years of Reuben A. Chace, before mentioned.

The Town Hall in 1865, which stood upon the site of the present hall, afterwards moved across Prospect street and occupied as a Police Court and Police Station, and recently torn down, had been built twenty years, and the increase of the town had outgrown it. Within it was the Public Library with J. Emory Hoar, Librarian, and in it also was held the Police Court, presided over by Bradford Kingman, Esq. Benjamin F. Baker, Esq., was Town Clerk in that hall for twenty years or more of its existence and continued to be in the new hall to the time of his death in 1898. Mr. Moses Withington, whose memory is yet cherished, was Town Treasurer for many years in both the old and new halls, until succeeded by the present Treasurer, Mr. George H. Worthley. Mr. Withington died in 1891, leaving a name a synonym of honesty. Mr. James Bartlett, for so many years a Selectman and chairman of that board during the life of the old hall, ought not to be forgotten in a sketch of this kind. Nor should the town meetings held in the old hall. They were battles fought between giants of those days, especially those in regard to annexation and the introduction of water into the town.

The chief speakers in those contests were Aspinwall, Benton, Griggs, Homer, Goddard, Humphrey, Carnes, Spencer, McCormack, Twichell and Wellman, all passed away; and Bowditch, Atkinson and Chandler, who still remain.

The present Town Hall was dedicated with imposing ceremony on Washington's Birthday, 1873, with an address by Robert C. Winthrop, LL.D. It is an imposing structure in its external appearance, but in other features a failure, though large and liberal appropriations were made to insure its success. From the first it was found that all else had been sacrificed to the grand hall, the acoustic properties of which have never been satisfactory, though many thousands of dollars have been spent trying to improve them. The lack of capacity in the building for the offices of the town was soon known and felt and it was only by additions and large expenditures recently made that those defects in a measure have been remedied.

On the Fourth of July, 1876, the centennial anniversary of the Republic was duly celebrated in the Town Hall by vote of the town, in which Wendell Phillips delivered an oration, and the ceremony of planting anniversary trees in front of the Hall was carried out under guidance and direction of William I. Bowditch, Esq., the then chairman of the Board of Selectmen. After their planting, the school children of the town who had taken part in the exercises in the hall, marched around the trees, led by the chairman of the Selectmen, shown the trees and bade to remember that they were planted on July 4th, 1876, the hundredth anniversary of American independence.

The town since 1865 has increased from 4,000 to 22,000 people, and where it once had but a Board of Selectmen, Assessors and School Committee, it now has in addition a Water Board, a Town Engineer, Superintendent of Streets, Superintendent of Wires, Building Inspector, and other appointees, and a police force and fire department in proportion. Its old Chief of Police with nine patrolmen would make a sorry show in the Brookline of today. And yet, with all the changes that have taken place, some of them for the better, and others we may wish had not occurred, Brookline is acknowledged to be a favored town and the one most desirable for residence to be found in New England, if not in the land.



Returning to the west side of Washington street to the St. Andrew Building, built by John Panter on land purchased by him of Benjamin B. Davis, with lands on which stand "Davis Mansion" and the "McLeod," we will consider the changes as we move northward. There was a noble elm standing there and the old building that stood there gave way to the widening of Washington place which changed its name to Davis avenue. The old building was occupied by Collins & Dyer in the provision business at the beginning of Dyer's business career in the town. In that building, also, John Thompson began his furniture business, also E. A. Walleston, gas-fitter. The St. Andrew building took the place of the wooden building where now are Felix R. King's grocery and Charles E. Schmalz's barber shop. Until within a few years, E. F. Allen, the gas-fitter, had his shop and office in that building. His former place of business is now a fruit store. August Vogel, the caterer, commenced business in town in that block and there continued until he removed to Harvard street, opposite the Baptist church. Another caterer and ice cream dealer was located there before Mr. Vogel's time, Mr. Hankey.

On the corner of Washington place, now Davis avenue, and Washington street, is the oldest grocery in town, James M. Seamans & Co., who began business in 1848 below the bridge. In 1865 and for some years after, their store was a two-story wooden building, which gave way to the present brick block of four stories, built in 1889, their business occupying the ground floor and cellar. The successor of the firm is Manning Seamans, son of James M., who was brought up in the business with his father.

The building next in order with some alterations, is the same as in 1864, and was occupied by Martin Kingman, dry goods dealer. Mr. Kingman, in 1865, succeeded Edwin Field, the oldest dry goods merchant in town, who carried on business some eighteen years prior to that date in a small store in the lower story of Lyceum Hall. Mr. Field on leaving Brookline made his home in Newtonville, where he died in 1891. Mr. Kingman continued in business in that store until 1875, when he sold out to his assistant, Miss Elizabeth M. Swift, who continued the business for some years, but owing to close competition and failing health, retired and removed

to Dansville, N. Y., where she died in 1897. The other part of the store has been occupied by different parties since Miss Swift's retirement and is now the office of Steverman & Gibbons, electricians, and the other half by Murray & Small, plumbers. The building is now owned by Manning Seamans.

Next to Kingman's store were the fine, terraced grounds with shrubs, shade and fruit trees fronting Washington street and also Washington place, with the old mansion house erected early in the century by Mr. Seth Thayer, whose wife was sister to Benjamin B. Davis, Esq. In that house Mrs. Eliza R. Fitts kept a girls' boarding school. After Mrs. Fitts gave up her school, the house was occupied for some years by Moses Eastman, conductor on the railroad, whose wife carried it on as a boarding house.

The beautiful rural aspect of the place was changed in the early seventies by the sale of the Washington street front and the erection thereon of buildings — changes that were perhaps inevitable but lamentable. Warren G. Currier, the druggist, in Panter's Building, Harvard street side, bought a lot, built the brick building now standing for a store and dwelling, into which he moved when completed. Mr. Currier, next to George W. Bird, was the most prominent and well known druggist of the town. His "Sunday School Class," so called, formed in the former store, followed him to the new location. It was a voluntary association of neighbors who met together to spend their evenings and leisure time, the life members of which were John Dustin, Justin Jones, Eben Morse, Thomas Pettingill and others, all of whom have passed away, as well as Mr. Currier, who died in 1891. The store has been sold to Mr. Kerr and has since been occupied by Metcalf Co., and other druggists, and at this writing is the temporary quarters of the Brookline National Bank during changes in its new building. Next to what was Currier's store is "The Reubens," a brick block built and owned by Reuben A. Chace on land formerly of the Seth Thayer estate. In it the Brookline National Bank first had its quarters. Farther on, in 1865, were Mr. Panter's and Mr. Nathaniel Lyford's shops, carpenters and builders, both of whom have passed away. The places were later taken by younger men who had been in their employ, such as Davis Waterman, Willard H. Goodwin and others. Goodwin & Waterman were for some years together in business in the

seventies, then Goodwin carried on business alone, in the place later occupied by Lincoln I. Leighton, who afterwards moved farther up the street, making good the statement that the moves are all up street. Frank D. Field, of Field, Copeland & Crocker, who has had his field of operations in this locality for the past thirty years, should not be forgotten. In this section were located Harrison & Boody, and William I. Morrison, painters; but the veteran of the locality today is John Koch, the upholsterer and screen manufacturer.

A little farther on is the Goodspeed stable, large, well kept and a model. In the sixties this was a wooden building, the livery in it being carried on by Henry Whitney, then by Eben Morse, by Bowler & Metcalf, by Grafton W. Stone, and at the present time by Goodspeed. Next to the stable is the Robert S. Davis house, a landmark on the street and former home of that well-known book publisher. This house, except in tenants and color, has remained unchanged since 1865.

The brick block of dwellings next in line, built early in the seventies was an addition to the appearance of the street. Madam Nordica and Robert Treat Paine, the astronomer, resided for awhile in this block. It has been the office and home of Drs. Wesselhoeft, Cushing, Defriez, and Shirley C. Ingraham, dentist, who is the owner of the larger part of the block.

Next to this block is the picturesque one-story wooden building built a few years since by French & Bryant, civil engineers, and occupied as their office.

On the corner of Thayer street, formerly Thayer place, stands the cottage house formerly the home of Dr. Edward A. Wilde, who fought in the War of the Rebellion, lost an arm and was made a brigadier-general for bravery. In 1865, Jacob Palmer and family occupied it. Prior to 1870, Mr. Joshua Conant and family occupied the house and after his death, Nathaniel his son, continued some years its occupant. Since then it has been rented to Dr. F. F. Whittier, and now by Simon Daley. Other citizens of the town may remember the stately elm which stood at the corner of Thayer place, now Thayer street, and which was taken down at the time the place was widened and made a street, about 1881. Down that place was a fine view to the iron gate entrance to the estate of the late E. C. Emerson, the grounds now intersected by Waverly and Emerson streets.

On the northerly side of Washington and westerly side of Prospect streets stood the old Town Hall and three dwellings, all demolished within a few years, the three latter to make way for the new Court House and Police Station. Next are Chase's express stable and the dwellings of Messrs. Chase and Collins erected in the late sixties or early seventies. The ground on which those buildings stood was the property of Mr. Timothy Leeds, whose house stood there for many years, occupied after his time by the late Benjamin F. Baker, Esq., and was moved from thence to Pearl street about 1868, where it is still standing.

There was a high hill back from the street which was lowered, and on it was built in 1869 the present Public Library building, which has since received two or more additions. John E. Hoar continued Librarian in the new building until 1871 and was succeeded by Miss Mary A. Bean for twenty-two years, or until her death in 1893. The vacancy caused by Miss Bean's death was filled by the election of Mr. Charles K. Bolton, who resigned in 1898 and was succeeded by Mr. Hiller C. Wellman, who resigned in May last, to be succeeded by the present incumbent, Miss Louisa M. Hooper.

Adjoining the Public Library grounds is the John Gibbs estate, in appearance much the same as it was in 1865 and now occupied by his widow, he having died in 1892.

Upon the corner of Washington and School streets, now a part of the Gibbs estate, stood a small wooden building, long since removed, in which Charles W. Batchelder had a provision store and the Brookline Savings Bank first opened for business in 1871, with Edward Atkinson, Esq., as president and the late Robert S. Littell as treasurer. In the second story Mr. Shields had his shop for the manufacture of anglers' supplies.

Let us now return to the corner of Thayer and Washington streets to the house owned and occupied by Mr. Martin Kingman, who has there resided since 1866.

Adjoining Mr. Kingman's estate was then the fire department of the town, in two old wooden structures in which were housed the Good Intent hose company and the Brookline engine, the "Tub," so called, which was drawn to and from fires by fifty or so volunteers, by ropes, and worked by hand. An alarm of fire was made by ringing the church bells, which

caused the volunteers to assemble and drag away the old "Tub," follow by a concourse of boys and citizens. In 1871, the wooden buildings were removed and the present brick structure erected, and upon the introduction of Charles River water, the old "Tub" gave place to a steam fire-engine.

Next to the engine-house are the shop and houses of the O. B. Delano estate. Mr. Oliver B. Delano established himself here in 1866 and built his house some two years thereafter. He was one of Brookline's older carpenters, and a respectable citizen, who died in 1893. Some of those who were journeymen in his employ were George F. Johnson, Osavius Verney, and Willard Y. Gross. His sons still carry on the business he established.

Between Delano's and the Heath estate was vacant land, except the Charles L. Palmer house with carriage shop in rear. Mr. Palmer died in 1888 and the property is now owned by Mr. Boody.

Jonathan D. Long built his house next to the Palmer estate now owned by Robert Patterson, in the early eighties, moving to the locality from White place. Mr. Long was a carpenter and in the latter part of his life sexton of the Baptist church. He died in 1889. The front ground floor of the Patterson house has been changed into offices for W. D. Morrison, painter, and Field, Copeland & Crocker, carpenters, they having work-shops in the rear. Adjoining the Patterson estate is the house formerly occupied by Mr. Freeman Sherman, superintendent of the Gas Company's works in the lower village until his removal from town. For many years thereafter it was owned and occupied by Bradford Kingman and now by George Delano. We next come to the corner of Goodwin place, on which stands the handsome and convenient Brookline Savings Bank building recently built of stone. Down the place are the residences of Miss Whyte and Mr. Goodwin. On the other corner of the place is the residence of Mr. David H. Daniels, for many years principal of the Pierce Grammar School, later Superintendent of Schools, who has been retired since 1890. This house was built by Bradford Kingman, and was his residence prior to its acquisition by Mr. Daniels.

Mr. Kingman, beside being a lawyer, trial justice and historian, was prior to the advent of the Brookline Chronicle,



proprietor and publisher of the Brookline Transcript newspaper in the latter part of the sixties and early seventies.

In the house next to Mr. Daniels in 1865 lived William Heath and family, since which time it has been occupied by several families.

In the next house, now owned by Charles H. Stearns and occupied by the Aechtler family, lived in 1865 and for some years thereafter Mr. Charles T. Plimpton and family.

On the corner of Washington and Cypress streets was built, in 1795-96, the Tolman house, which is still standing and an ancient landmark in the town. Its owners from the time of its building down to 1861 were Jonas Tolman, cordwainer, and his heirs. In the later year it was sold to the president of your society and ten years or so later, by him to the late John Gibbs, and later by Mr. Gibbs, a part to the Methodist Society of the town, and the old house to Mr. Hill, the present owner.

Directly on the corner stood the Tolman shoemaker shop and shoe store, occupied for more than sixty years by the Tolmans, father and son, and in later years by George Echardt and Rupert Weinstein. The old shop gave place to the Methodist Chapel, erected in 1879, which was occupied by that society until 1892, when it was sold to the Universalist Society, which still owns and occupies it. The Methodist pastors in the Chapel were Rev. Mark Trafton, Rev. Mr. McDonald, Rev. Mr. Brodbeck and Rev. Mr. Twombly. Those of the Universalist Society have been Rev. Mr. Potterton, Rev. Mr. Biddle, and the present incumbent Rev. Mr. Gerrish.

The old Tolman house, now owned and occupied by Mr. Hill, has had many occupants since 1865, among whom have been Miss Harriet Woods, author of "Historical Sketches of Brookline," the Misses Elizabeth and Mary Peabody (the latter became Mrs. Horace Mann, and they also at one time taught a select school therein), and Miss Rachel Cushing, who kept in it her school for girls and young ladies.

Here ends our sketch of changes along the lower half of Washington street, through Brookline Village since 1865, and with this startling statement, that of all the men of voting age that then resided upon it, for its entire length between the Roxbury and Brighton lines, two only are left, Thomas B. Griggs and Martin Kingman.

No. 3



## PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

# BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## JOHN WHITE OF MUDDY RIVER

PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY

APRIL 22, 1903, AND APRIL 27, 1904





# PUBLICATIONS

OF THE

## BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### JOHN WHITE OF MUDDY RIVER

and Descendants of his Youngest Son, Benjamin

*A PAPER READ BEFORE THE SOCIETY, APRIL 22, 1903*

*AND APRIL 27, 1904*

BY

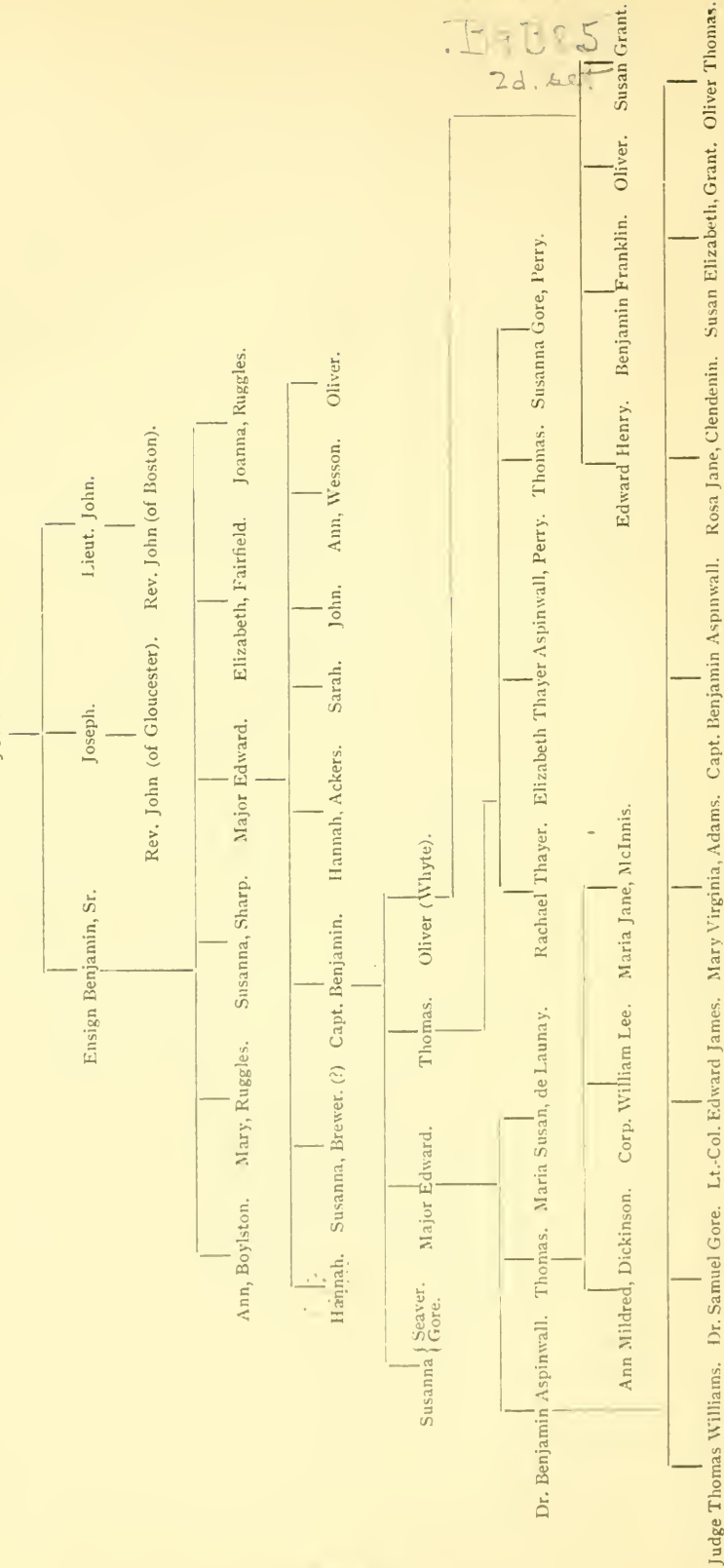
CHARLES F. WHITE



BROOKLINE, MASS.:  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
MCMIV

# BRANCH OF THE GENEALOGICAL TREE OF JOHN WHITE, OF MUDDY RIVER

JOHN



# JOHN WHITE OF MUDDY RIVER

AND

DESCENDANTS OF HIS SON BENJAMIN.

Some four years ago Mr. Thomas J. Lothrop, then living in this town, published a pamphlet entitled, John White of Watertown and Brookline. It is a concise genealogical register of five generations, under seventeen family heads with 117 children. At the present time there are living in the town members of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th generations who bear the family name, and of other names including the 10th.

The adult members of the second generation consisted of three sons. The children of John White, Jr., the eldest son, removed from Brookline and have not been associated with Brookline history excepting Abigail, who married William Sharp, and Sarah, who married John Winchester.

Descendants of the two younger sons have been citizens of the town to the present day, and it may be said in a general way, that those descended from Joseph, the second son, have lived in the southern and western parts of the town centering about what is now the junction of Warren and Heath streets, while those descended from Benjamin, the youngest son, have lived along the line of Washington street, either at the village or near the southwest slope of Corey Hill and it is to this division of the family that I shall confine myself.

Nothing is now known of John White, senior, before the taking of the first inventory of estates at Watertown about 1639, when he is recorded as owner of a "Homestall and seven acres of land" in that town. From the records of Suffolk Deeds we learn that in 1642, Stephen Day mortgaged to John White, seven acres of land and a house on the south side of Charles River, and in the same year, Reinold Bush mortgaged four acres also on the south side of the river; while in 1643, John White "deeds by way of mortgage to John Sherman, to secure a debt of £25 due the heirs of the widow Ong, a house

and seven acres of land in Watertown bought from the Deacons, and a house and seven acres of land lying in Cambridge bought from Mr. Day."

As we first see him, thus dimly outlined in Watertown, he is probably twenty-six to thirty years of age and not long married. Tradition has it that his wife was Frances Scarboro, and it also tells us that his son Joseph married Hannah Scarboro, but I have, as yet, found no authentic record as to either. The given names of each of these early mothers of the Brookline Whites are well evidenced, but their family names are shrouded in the mists of the past.

The four children were born in Watertown, possibly excepting the youngest, Mary, who was baptized at Roxbury in 1652, "Mary daughter to sister White of Watertown," so the record runs.

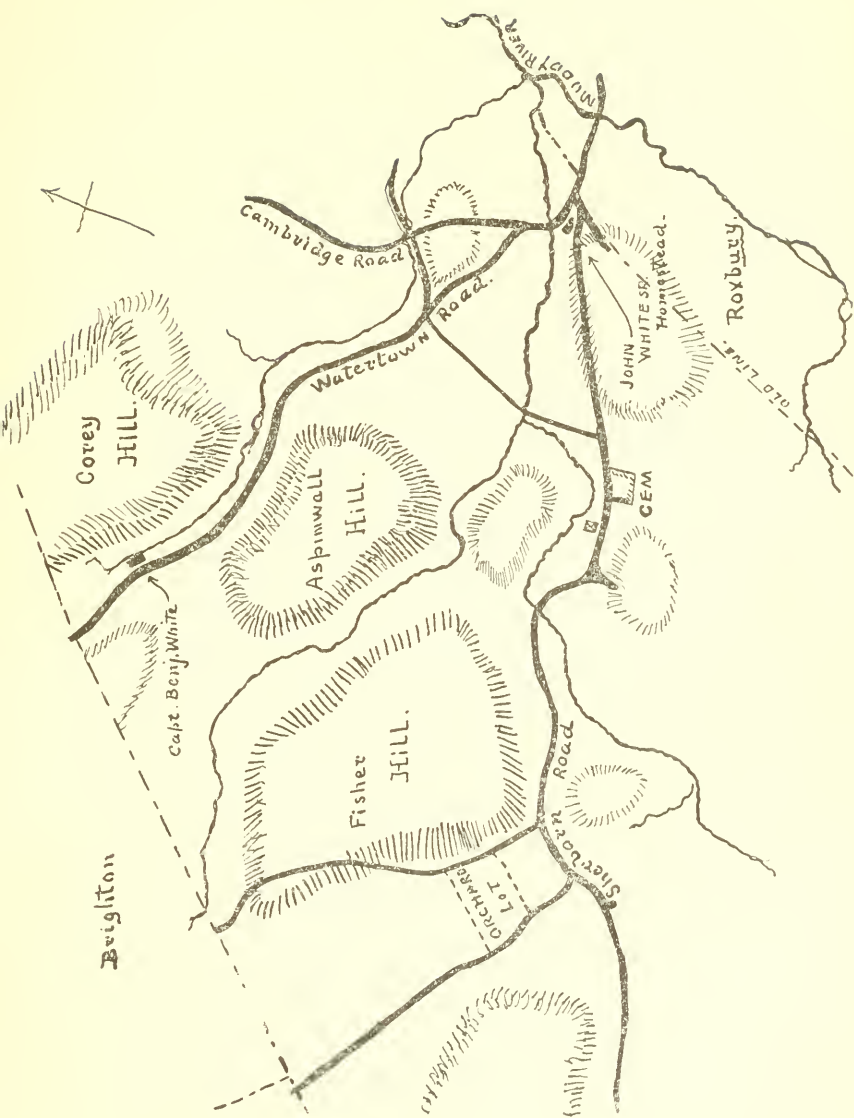
Between the years 1636 and 1642, allotments of land at Muddy River, in various quantities, had been made to more than 100 persons, among whom the names of Aspinwall, Boylston, Griggs, Atkinson, Davis, Kenrick, Gross and others, are familiar to us at the present day. The bounds of these ancient grants are often quite obscure to any but the practised searcher. Fortunately some of them are more easy to trace.

Between Corey Hill and Aspinwall Hill, a small brook, following the general line of Washington and School streets and Aspinwall avenue, drains that valley, while between Aspinwall and Fisher Hills the larger brook drains the valley of the Circuit railway line.

Again the old boundary line separating from Roxbury was along the present "Village Lane" instead of the valley of Muddy River, in the Parkway. Let us now picture the land between the two brooks to an extent of two hundred and fifty acres. This was the grant to Mr. John Cotton.

A grant of 100 acres to Elder Thomas Leverett was bounded northerly by the brook separating his land from Mr. Cotton's, "the east end being a sharp angle."

A grant of 100 acres to Elder Thomas Oliver bordered Roxbury line on the south, and Mr. Leverett's land on the north, while the east end was also a sharp angle.



In 1650, John White made his first purchase of land in Brookline, buying from Mr. Thomas Oliver 50 acres of upland, 18 acres of marsh and 6 acres of fresh marsh for £130, "to be paid for in good merchantable corn and fat cattle."

His homestead was located very near the present Whyte's block and the engine-house, between Walnut and Washington streets. Portions of this land are yet in the possession of his descendants, having passed from one generation to another to the present time.

To this first estate John White added various tracts of land in different parts of the town, so that before his death he had become a considerable proprietor.

The gradual rise of local self-government in Muddy River can be readily traced in the volume printed by the town in 1875. Until 1685, the chief officers were the constable, the surveyors of the highways, and the perambulators of the bounds, with occasionally a tythingman, appointed from those living in the hamlet by the Selectmen of Boston. After the full meeting of the inhabitants of Muddy River held Jan. 19th, 1786, which accepted the order in council authorizing the hamlet to choose its own officers and meet its own expenses, there was a practically independent management of local affairs until 1705, when Brookline became a regularly incorporated town.

In 1654, John White, senior, with Peter Oliver, Peter Aspinwall and William Davis, is chosen to lay out the highway from Roxbury to Cambridge, through Muddy River.

In 1655 and 1666, he is chosen constable. For five years he was perambulator of the town bounds, and for four years one of the surveyors of the highways. His last service seems to have been in 1676, when, with Peter Aspinwall and Edward Devotion, senior, he is on a committee chosen by the Selectmen of Boston "to inspect and prevent excessive drinkage and such disorder in private and unlicenced houses of entertainment in Muddy River."

Under date of Feb. 20, 1672, we find that "Liberty is granted to John White of Muddy river, Senr., to cutt five-oake and ffive maple trees of the comon at Muddy river; pro-



vided, he doe what he can to secure the rest from others or to give notice of any that shall offend in that kinde."

That the grievances of our townspeople over changes in the highways of the town are of ancient standing, is curiously shown by the following entries in the records, and the methods pursued in obtaining settlement suggest those sometimes employed by contending street-railway companies:—

28, 12, 1658. "Whereas a highway was laid outt att muddy river as by a record dated June 8 1658 through the land of Jno. White att Muddy River and so by Tho. Gardners to ye farme of Isaac Stedman, itt is hereby declared yt, ye said way, so laid out, shall be reputed ye townes highway and the other way in ye law is hereby relinquished. And itt shall bee lawful for ye said Jno. White either to fence out ye sd highway, or else, to sett up gates such as may bee easy for opening to travellers; and if any leave ye sd gates open att any time they shall pay five shillings for every defect; being legally convicted thereof."

An entry about a month later shows the sequel and gives us a side-light upon the character of this early settler. It reads: 31, 1, 1659 "Upon information brought yt Jno. White at muddy river hath stopt up the highway yt was laid out through his fields with a stone wall; Itt is ordered yt ye Treasurer shall issue forth a warrant for a fine of twenty shillings, for his offence, to bee levied by distress by ye constable, and so from day to day twenty shillings till ye sd White open the way again."

We may safely presume that there was a "considerable discourse" over this matter and that the offending wall was removed, for in a few months a third entry records the conclusion as follows: 25. 12. 60. "Whereas a highway was laid outt through ye land of John White at muddy river whereby he pretends much damage; Itt is therefor ordered yt his proportion of the ordinary rates to towne and country for ye next four years shall be allowed to him by the towne, which allowance is accepted by ye sd White for full satisfaction." This result may have encouraged the complaint lodged in 1667 against James Pemberton for setting up a gate in the high-

way by the bridge; but this complaint was adjudged to be groundless; "for as much as that for many years before, and some time since John White's dwelling there a gate was erected and accepted in or near that same place."

There are various other references to John White in the town records, and the Suffolk Deeds contain several; among them, the testimony of John Gore, John Winchester and Joshua Kibby, about a case of disputed measurement of land near Corey Hill, very quaint in its language but too long to be quoted.

In 1669 Edward Cartwright of Boston makes John White of Muddy River and Edward Morris of Roxbury trustees of his estate for the benefit of himself and his heirs.

In the same records for 1657 we find that John White witnessed an agreement made by Thomas and Elizabeth Wiswall of Newton, then called Cambridge Village, binding them to give to their son Enoch, in the event of his marriage, their three lots of land and two houses at Dorchester.

Thus encouraged, Enoch soon married Elizabeth, daughter of John Oliver of Boston, who for his character and attainments was called "The Scholar."

A granddaughter of this marriage became the wife of John White's grandson Edward, and it is of special interest for the clue it gives us to the origin of one of the persistent family names.

Enoch Wiswall and Elizbaeth Oliver had twelve children, and they gave the name of "Oliver" to one of their sons. A daughter of this Oliver Wiswall named one of her sons Oliver White, and each succeeding generation has had an Oliver among its sons. At the present time there are three of that name living.

Until there was a church established here in 1717, most people of Muddy River and Brookline went to the Roxbury church and its records are rich in references to them. In the list of "such as adjoynd themselves to the church at Roxbury" is the entry for "1677, 2d month 29th day; John White, Senior, of Muddy River, was received with good acceptance." Taken with what is recorded as to John White's services in

his community and the usual close association of citizenship and church membership in the colonial days, the fact that he did not become a church member until he was sixty years of age is certainly interesting. It is not on record that he had previously "taken hold on ye covenant," as the entries of half-way membership read, but we may suppose that he had done so. The incident of the stone wall in the highway indicates a man of determined character, while the advanced age of his coming into the church points to one not fully in accord with early theocratic ideals of civil government.

John White, Senior, died in 1691, and his widow, Frances, five years later. Probably their remains were buried at Eustis street in Roxbury. No monument to them can be found at present.

Their eldest son Lieutenant John White and his wife were buried there, and their headstones are as clear-cut as when new. Lieutenant John died about a year before his mother's death.

It is worth while to recall to our minds for a moment some of the stirring events filled with far-reaching meaning, which took place during the life-time of this early settler of our town.

As a lad he saw the accession of Charles I. and could recall it much as a man of fifty can now recall our Civil War.

When a young man he felt the political and ecclesiastical pressure which preceded the English Revolution, and he had been swept to New England on some wave of the great tide of Puritan emigration. In the days of the Long Parliament, of the War and of Cromwell, he was in Watertown, while the times of the Protectorate, the Restoration of Charles II., of James II. and the coming of William and Mary, were those of his living at Muddy River.

In New England he may or may not have seen the Pequot War, but he witnessed the efforts at unity of Church and State, the driving out of Baptists and of Quakers in pursuance of that policy, the establishment of the Half-way Covenant, designed to widen the suffrage, but which paved the way to the decline of theocratic rule. Then came the times of the

Narragansett War followed by the anxious days of Andros and, as his life draws to a close, the Witchcraft and the New Charter.

On April 13, 1691, two days before his death, he signed his will, which was witnessed by Joseph Griggs, Joshua Gardner and Roger Adams. It is on record in Suffolk Probate, and some of its items are of interest to us for their light on the times and the man.

"I give and bequeath to my grandson John, son of my eldest son John £40 in money or as money; my fowling-piece and my best silver wine-cup being part thereof. To my grandson Benjamin a carbine.

"To my granddaughter Mary; daughter of my son Joseph; my second-best wine-cup, being silver.

"To my grandchild Mary; daughter of my son John; a silver dram-cup. To my sons John, Joseph and Benjamin a whip-saw, hatchill and a great iron pot, to be equally between them. I give and bequeath to my sons John, Joseph and Benjamin a certain parcel of land containing 32 acres; acres his lot; excepting four or five acres thereof; which is elsewhere given to my son Joseph; to be by them planted with an orchard to be improved for their eldest sons, to bring them up in good learning and upon failure of sons to their eldest daughters, to be reserved against their marriage. . . And that what expense they shall be at in planting an orchard, or otherwise about the said land, shall be paid out of the income.

"And the said land shall always be kept in an orchard, by my sons or their heirs, which they shall keep clean from bushes. Further, I order that the aforesaid land shall be forthwith planted by my sons and their heirs, kept well pruned, and all dead trees supplied by living; a nursery being kept therein for that end.

"I further will that those who are brought up to learning be kept at the college seven years."

Without having precisely located this interesting orchard it seems probable that it was not far from the land recently bought by the town on Reservoir Lane. We note that a few

acres of the orchard lot had been given to Joseph White. In 1703 Joseph deeds this to Benjamin his son and describes it as part of the lot purchased of John Ackers by his late father John White. In 1714 Benjamin White describes it in the same way and as "lying undivided with the shares of his kinsmen."

In 1716 Edward White of Brookline, Gentleman, and John White of Boston, Gentleman, sell to Benjamin White, Jr., of Brookline, husbandman, their one third parts of this orchard lot bounded southwesterly by a highway leading to Newton; northwesterly by land of Peter Boyleston; northeasterly by a highway leading to Cambridge line, and southeasterly partly by land of Benjamin White, Jr., and partly by land of Joseph Gardner. The provisions of this will give a vivid conception of the value put upon good learning in early days, but not for the young women.

It should be noted here that although the will was dated in 1691, it was probably written a good many years earlier, and it is probable that John White, Senior, had already divided his lands among his sons by deeds of gift. Excellent use was made of the improvement or income of the orchard.

The grandson John, who received the "best wine-cup and fowling-piece," graduated at Harvard in 1685 and prepared for the ministry, taking two degrees. He combined scholarly tastes with a good capacity for business and for public affairs. Judge Samuel Sewall speaks most highly of him in his diary. He was chaplain to Sir William Phipps. For three years he was a representative from Boston in the Legislature and Clerk of that body for twenty years. In 1697 he was chosen Fellow of Harvard College, and in 1713 its Treasurer, acting as such from 1715 to his death. He was one of the trustees of the Province-Loan, and one of the twenty-two proprietors of Leicester, Mass. In 1721 he was inoculated for small-pox by Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, and died from complications ensuing during convalescence. He was never married.

The eldest son of Joseph White was Benjamin, Jr., as he was called, and afterward Deacon. For some reason his next brother John was put to learning in his stead, and, graduating

at Harvard in 1698, entered the ministry, and in 1702 was settled at Gloucester, where he remained until his death in 1760. He married three times and had eleven children. Of his seven sons, two graduated at Harvard College.

Of the third grandson, Edward, son of Benjamin White, Senior, also a Harvard graduate, we shall speak later.

In the division of John White, Senior's, real estate in Brookline the share of the youngest son, Benjamin, included the homestead and adjacent lands with all buildings thereon and all other lands then in Benjamin's possession. Those about the homestead fronted along what is now Washington street, from the foot of Walnut street to the railway bridge, and extended westerly along both sides of Walnut street. The other lands were on upper Washington street near its junction with Beacon street, probably including what in later times we have known as the James Bartlett farm. This Benjamin White was born about 1646, and is usually referred to in town records as Senior, to distinguish him from his nephew, Deacon Benjamin White, Jr. He is also called Sergeant and Ensign White. He describes himself as "yeoman." In his younger days he probably carried on the "upper farm" near Corey Hill and, later, after the death of his father, made the homestead in the village his residence. He married about 1680. His wife Susanna is supposed to have been daughter of William and Susanna (Hawkes) Cogswell of Chebacco parish of Ipswich, though I believe this is sometimes questioned.

Benjamin White died in 1823, and his gravestones (head and foot) are in the old Brookline burying ground, one of the earliest to be found there. The inscription reads:—

Here lyes interred  
ye body of Mr.  
Benjamin White who  
departed this life  
January 9th day  
172<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>  
aged about seventy  
seven years.



His widow survived him five years, but I find no memorial stone of her. Their son obtained leave of the town to build a tomb, and with one exception, there are no visible burial-ground monuments to any of this family in Brookline until we come to the tomb built by the late Oliver Whyte. The body of his father, Oliver, Senior, was removed from an old tomb and put in his new one. I have already stated that Lieutenant John White and his wife were buried in Roxbury. Joseph White and his wife Hannah were buried in Brookline and their headstones are well preserved.

Ensign Benjamin White served the town as perambulator of bounds in 1685-90-93 ; as surveyor of highways in 1694. He was selectmen for eight years. In 1707, with John Winchester, Senior, and Lieut. Thomas Gardner, he was assessor of the Province Tax. He was one of the petitioners for the incorporation of the town and he is on record as one of the committee of seven, appointed to treat with Mr. James Allen in 1717, to secure his services as minister of the parish church.

In seating the church, *i. e.*, assigning to each his or her place of sitting, a duty performed by a special committee of five, *viz.*, John Winchester, Sr., Thomas Gardner, Sr., Joseph White, Capt. Aspinwall and Thomas Stedman, Ensign Benjamin White was assigned "the seat or spot at the right hand of the coming in at the east door of the meeting-house, valued at three pounds." These pew-spots, when accepted by those designated by the committee at the prices attached, became the property of them and their heirs with the condition that, if any proprietor removed from the town or "became reduced to such mean circumstances as not to be able to pay his public taxes," then the title should revert to the town upon payment to the proprietor of the original price and the cost of building the pew. Proprietors built their own pews and pew-windows, the town keeping the latter in repair, and among other votes we read : "Voted that Captain Timothy Corey be granted liberty to cut a window in his pew at his own expense, provided he cut no braces, and that Mr. Moses White's window be moved as far as may be without being carried out of his pew."



Next to Ensign White sat his nephew, Dea. Benjamin White, Jr., with his family of four sons and three daughters, while next beyond, in the northeast corner, sat Peter Boylston with his six daughters and their brother, grandchildren of Ensign White. Peter Boylston, an elder brother of the famous Dr. Zabdiel, had married Ann, second daughter of Benjamin White, and in the row of girlish heads was the future mother of a President, for Susanna by her marriage with John Adams of Braintree became mother of President John Adams.

Mary White, third daughter of Benjamin, married, in 1710, Rev. Timothy Ruggles of Roxbury. He was a Harvard graduate of the class of 1707, and a month after their marriage he was ordained minister of Rochester, Mass., where his pastorate lasted fifty-eight years. Theolatia Ruggles, wife of Hon. Ginery Twichell, and Mr. Cyrus W. Ruggles, who so long kept the post-office in the old Brookline railway station, were among the descendants of this marriage.

Susanna, the fourth daughter, married Captain Robert Sharp, third of the name. She died in 1770 at the age of eighty, and the names of Robert Sharp Davis and Mary Sharp Clark tell of her descendants in various Brookline families.

Elizabeth, fifth daughter of Ensign White, married William Fairfield of Boston, and Joanna, the youngest daughter, married Joseph Ruggles of Roxbury, a brother of Rev. Timothy Ruggles, just mentioned.

Edward, the youngest beneficiary of the orchard, born in 1693, was the only son. Benjamin White did not leave a will, but instead he executed a deed of gift eight years before his death, having practically the same effect. In it he describes himself "yeoman" and gives to his well beloved son, Edward White of Brookline, "clerk," all his houses and lands, all his stock of creatures living and dead; all tools and utensils of husbandry without doors; his black servant (slaves were not at all unknown in 18th century Brookline), one jack, a copper, one pair of dogs, a spit and a pair of iron racks of his movables within doors. The daughters were to inherit the rest of his personal property. Edward was required to pay to each sister

at the death of each parent, £25 to help provide their mourning. After the death of both parents he was to pay each married sister £100 and each unmarried sister £200, and the receipts for each of these payments are duly entered in the Suffolk Probate. Their father also reserved to the unmarried daughters the southerly end of his house, consisting of one upper and one lower room, with privilege of the cellar, also convenient diet and firewood.

After making the deed of gift Benjamin leased to his son Edward one half of all his houses and lands for £40 per year.

Edward, who had graduated at Harvard in 1712, was now twenty-five years of age and had just married Hannah, daughter of Oliver and Sarah (Baker) Wiswall of Dorchester. Where the young people made their new home cannot, perhaps, be ascertained. It may have been in one of the houses on the old lot at the Village, or, which is more probable, it may have been at the Bartlett farm, where, as Miss Wood tells us, he built the house taken down after the widening of Beacon street. Be that as it may, he brings into the family line a new and attractive figure.

We have seen John of Boston, the scholarly city man, and John of Gloucester, the lifelong minister. Edward of Brookline, youngest of the "orchard cousins," has also a liberal education, which he turns to the service of an enterprising man of business. He inherited a considerable estate from his father and he added to it several pieces of land aggregating about 75 acres. Most of it was near Corey Hill, on the northerly slope of Aspinwall Hill or bordering on Washington street. Other pieces were along the northerly side of Walnut street.

To his Brookline property he added tracts of land in New Hampshire, from the grants made by the Province to soldiers of the Narragansett War. Most of this land was in the Merri-mac Valley opposite Manchester. References to these lands and to many events connected with the life of Edward White have been printed by the Historical Publication Society and need not be repeated. The town records from 1718 to 1761 show him to have been almost continuously in the service of

the community, although at the first call he pays the town £5 to be excused from serving as its constable. He was chosen Moderator of a large fraction of the town meetings between 1719 and 1760. He was town clerk and treasurer for five years, while for nine years he was selectman and assessor. He was the town's representative in the Provincial Legislature for five years.

In 1721 the town chose him, with his cousin Samuel White and Robert Sharp, as trustee of the town's share in the Province Loan of £50,000.

He joined with John and Henry Winchester and Abraham Woodward in 1727 on a committee "to bring the schools into some good method" and the next year he was on another to locate the centre of the town for school purposes. That is the year when we find him in company with Thomas Cotton and Captain Gardner, charged with drafting an act to prevent geese from going upon the highways. 1728 found him on a committee to seat the meeting house, on another to audit the treasurer's accounts, another to carry on a lawsuit with some inhabitants of the south part of the town, and on another with Robert Sharp and Caleb Gardner to erect the North School.

A taste for military duties runs through this family. As we have seen, Benjamin, Senior, was called Sergeant and Ensign. In 1740 Edward White is entitled Captain, and in 1743 Major, while later each of his sons bore a minor title. A few years ago Captain C. P. Crawford of Milledgeville wrote me of an old commission preserved in the library of Emory College at Oxford, Ga. By the kindness of the college officers it was photographed and the plate sent to Brookline. It proved to be one issued in 1743 by Gov. Shirley appointing Edward White to be Major in the regiment of Colonel William Dudley and Captain of the Brookline foot company. The original had passed from eldest son to eldest son for four generations until given to Emory College by the widow of Judge Thomas Williams White of Milledgeville, who left no son to succeed him.

If we go into the old burying ground on Walnut street and pass along its central roadway to the large elm tree near its

eastern end, we shall see on our left a little headstone of slate cut with small but clear letters, " Here lies ye body of Hannah White, daughter to Mr. Edward and Mrs. Hannah White. Died October ye 9th 1725, in ye 6th year of her age."

Hannah was the first of the nine children born to Edward and Susanna White, and the little stone is the only visible monument excepting the one to Benjamin White, Senior, her grandfather, to any member of these families before the one erected by Oliver, great-grandson of Major Edward, near the southerly line of the grounds.

Of Susanna, the second child, only this is now known, that she was living and married in 1765, when her father wrote his will. She probably married Stephen Brewer of Roxbury. Hannah, born in 1728 and who died in 1800, married William Ackers of Brookline. Sarah, the next daughter, died unmarried.

John and Oliver each died unmarried in early manhood, consumption sweeping both away in 1771. The name of each appears once on the town meeting records, and each was an officer in the regiment of Colonel Francis Brinley. John was associated with his father in ownership of New Hampshire land.

Ann, the youngest daughter, married Col. James Wesson, one of the most active officers from Brookline in the Revolution, of whom extended notice is printed in the Publication Society's " Brookline in the Revolution." She died of small-pox in 1776, contracted while feeding a tramp at her door.

Major Edward White died in 1769, his life having spanned almost the whole period of Provincial Massachusetts, the days of political and military training for the era of the Revolution. His widow outlived him eleven years.

By his will he gave to his son Benjamin, all of his lands on the northerly side of " the great country road leading from Watertown to Boston," as Washington street was long called, with certain lots on the opposite side.

To his son John, he gave his mansion house with all lands adjoining and the buildings thereon, situated upon the northerly side of Sherborn road, and a piece of meadow opposite the mansion house on the northerly side of the Watertown road.

This shows that he was living at the village as early as 1765, and that his son Benjamin, was then living at the Bartlett farm. Other lands were divided to John and Oliver, the latter receiving his silver-hilted sword.

To his three daughters he gives his lands in New Hampshire, and among other property "his negro girl."

He specifies that his mulatto servant Cæsar is to wait upon his mistress so long as she shall live, and directs that neither Cæsar nor Primus shall be sold, but shall live with which of his sons he liked best but not living in idleness. From the First Parish records we learn that Primus died in 1770, while Cæsar died in 1792, aged eighty. Cuffy, who was deeded to Major White in 1735 by Leicester Grovenor, Esq., of Pomfret, Conn., for the sum of £80, had died in 1762.

To his widow he gave the use of one half of the mansion house, with such parts of the other buildings and of the garden as she might need, with all the poultry and the use of his household goods. Also one of his horses, which she liked best, and his riding-chair.

The sons were required to furnish their mother with six barrels of cider, nine bushels of Indian meal and four bushels of rye meal, with one hundred weight each of beef and of pork with fire-wood annually. Under the provisions of this will the shares of property given to John and to Oliver, passed by their deaths in 1771 to the eldest son Benjamin, thus left the only man in the family of the fourth generation. He was born in 1724 and had graduated at Harvard College in 1744, and at the age of thirty-two he had married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Joanna (Gardner) Aspinwall, elder sister of Col. Thomas Aspinwall of the Revolution, and of Dr. William Aspinwall, the successor of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston. Like his father, he was a landed proprietor conducting business and farming and giving a great deal of time to the public service. He took a most active interest in the events leading up to the Revolutionary War, and during all its conduct was one of its earnest supporters. It seems somewhat strange that Miss Woods in her *Sketches of Brookline* should have entirely missed Captain Benjamin White and his grand-

father Ensign Benjamin, since their names are so recurrent in the town records. She specifies in her notes on the family, that Major Edward was the son of John White, and that Mr. Oliver Whyte, our Town Clerk, whom she probably knew, was a son of Major Edward.

From 1762, Captain Benjamin White served the town as selectman and assessor for ten years. He was representative in the General Court for eleven years, receiving a vote of thanks from the town for this service and another for his services as treasurer.

In 1667 the town voted unanimously to take all prudent and legal measures to promote industry, economy and manufactures in the Province and to discourage the use of European Superfluities, and Captain White was on a committee with Samuel Aspinwall, William Hyslop, John Goddard and Isaac Gardner to draft a form of subscription against receiving these European Superfluities.

In 1768 he was chosen to meet the delegates of the several towns at Faneuil Hall. Upon the organizing of the committees of correspondence in 1772, Captain Benjamin White was one of the Brookline members, and he was the town's representative at the General Assembly at Salem in 1774, acting under a set of formal instructions drawn up by Dr. William Aspinwall, Major William Thompson and Mr. John Goddard. In 1776 he was given the title of "Honorable," the first instance of its use found in the town records, probably bestowed for his services as Councillor. He was many times Moderator of the town meetings and his last service was in 1783 as representative. He lived long enough to see the constitution ratified and the new government for which he had so earnestly worked, set in motion.

Aside from the record of his public political services there are some other interesting items preserved to us. He was one of the committee chosen to consult and report to the town as to the cost of a steeple for the meeting house, where in to hang the bell which was given in 1771 by Nicholas Boylston. This question greatly agitated the town. Upon receiving the report of the committee, it was voted to erect



the steeple, specifying "that it is to be no higher than Dr. Boylston's steeple is." A later meeting voted to reconsider and, instead, to build only a tower with a proper roof. Motions to reconsider this vote were lost at two succeeding meetings. Meantime the town decided to build a porch at the east end of the meeting house, making Captain White, Squire Gardner and Mr. Isaac Child a committee to attend to it. The same meeting constituted Captain White, with Deacon Ebenezer Davis and Deacon Joseph White a committee to look after the tomb which Mrs. Mary Craft is given leave to build.

Before long the town decided to grant the spot in the meeting house where the women's stairs were, to Captain White, he agreeing to build and finish the porch at the east end, at his own expense, and to carry the women's stairs into it.

Finally, in June 1772, the town reconsidered its vote against building the spire, and appropriated £100 to pay for it, levying this tax against "the real and personal estates and faculty and non-residents."

In 1790, Captain Benjamin White died. His wife, Elizabeth Aspinwall, had died in 1785, and he had married in 1788, Esther Daggett, who survived him. His real estate in Brookline comprised over 220 acres, and among those concerned with the settlement of it are several closely connected with the times and the families we have reviewed. Ebenezer Davis, one of the administrators, and Benjamin Davis, one of the bondsmen, were cousins, their fathers being of the same names, and sons of Deacon Ebenezer Davis, a descendant by his mother and his grandmother from John White, Senior.

From Ebenezer descended, through his marriage with Lucy Sharp, Robert Sharp Davis and his brothers, General Phineas Stearns Davis and Samuel Craft Davis, the well known merchant of St. Louis.

Both Benjamin Davis and his father had been successful farmers for the Boston market, their farm occupying the space between the brook and Davis avenue, on the westerly side of Washington street, where later lived Benjamin Baker Davis, the last man of that branch of the Davis line. Among



the appraisers were Squire Stephen Sharp and Mr. Joshua Boyleston, whose pictures Miss Woods has drawn for us so pleasantly.

Captain Benjamin and Mrs. Elizabeth White had five children, Susanna, born in 1756, Edward, 1758, Thomas, 1763, John, 1766, who died at the age of two years, and Oliver, born in 1771.

As each of the three sons who lived to maturity was married, the tracing of the family line is less simple than in the case of the preceding generations in which there was but one adult male member in each, to whom fell the family estate. Before taking up the story of the next generation let us notice what became of Mr. White's lands as they passed into the hands of those with whom they are associated in our own minds. Captain White died intestate, his son Thomas and Ebenezer Davis were administrators, and Thomas Aspinwall, John Goddard and Captain Timothy Corey made the division of the estate.

Under the terms of his father's will, the death of his two brothers made Captain Benjamin White the owner of all the lands in Brookline, bequeathed to his three sons by Major Edward. These lands lay along both sides of the Watertown road and bordered the Sherborn road on its southerly side from the Village to what is now Cypress street, then called the New Lane. There were also the customary portions of salt marsh near Charles River and the Back Bay, and of woodland in the southerly part of the town. In 1795, Thomas White sold to John Gardner fifty-one acres of land, bounded southerly by the Watertown road with the house thereon, also ten acres and the barn thereon, bounded northerly by the same road. In 1797 John Gardner sold the same lands to Timothy Corey.

In 1800, Timothy Corey sold to Elijah Corey, forty acres of the land on the north side of the road with the house, and in 1843, Elijah Corey sold the same tract of land and the house to James Bartlett, who held it until the general cutting up of the old farmsteads when the widening of Beacon street took place. The one hundred acres of land on the slopes of

Aspinwall Hill passed into the hands of Dr. William Aspinwall, brother of Mrs. White.

In 1794 Thomas White bought in the land bordering along the Sherborn road, and in the same year the wood-lot adjoining Jonathan Mason's land was sold to George Cabot.

In 1800 and in 1803, Thomas White sold to Oliver Whyte, described as a merchant of Petersburg, Georgia, the land from the corner of Villagelane and Walnut street to the present Irving street.

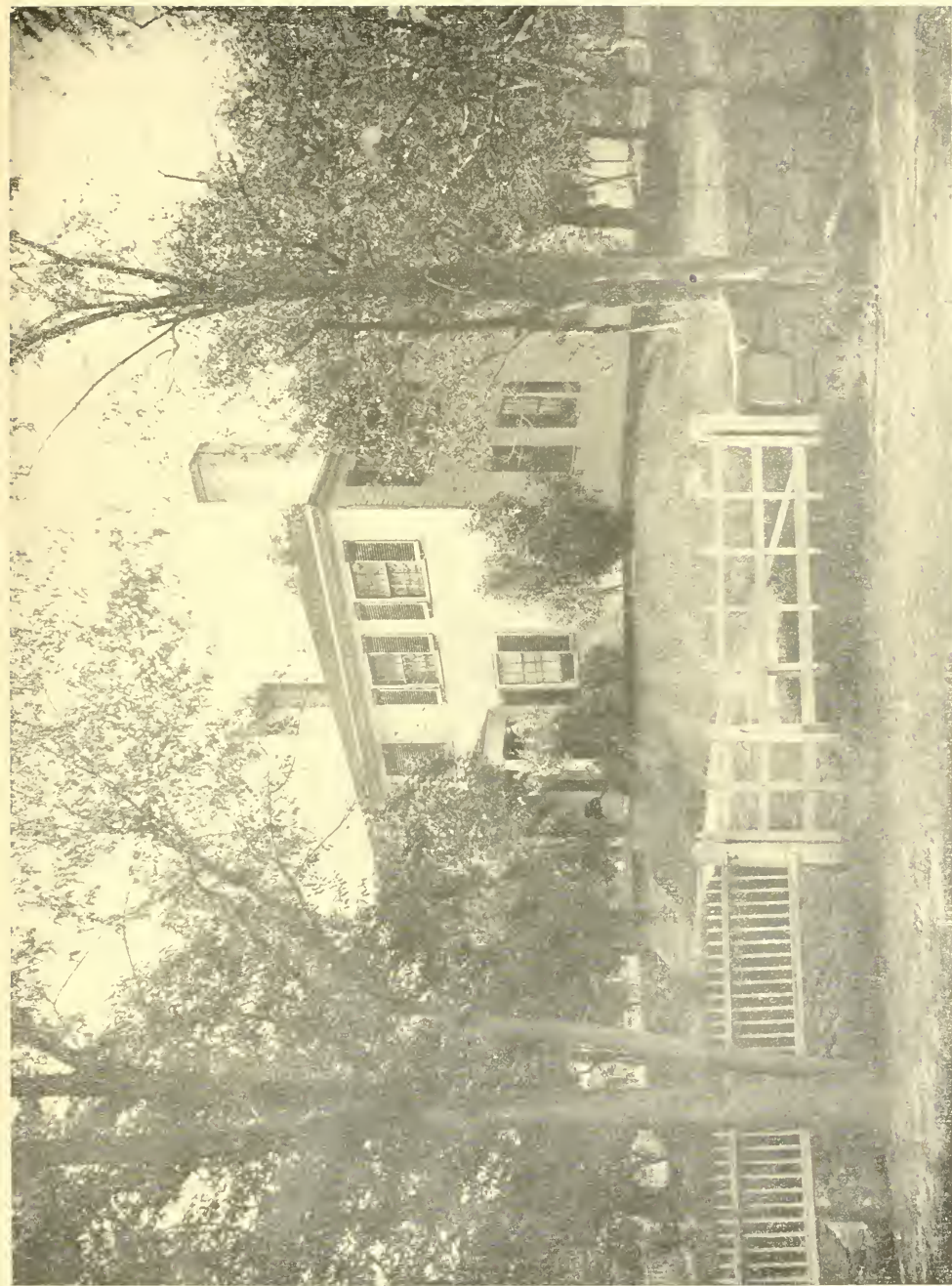
In 1820, after the death of Thomas White, Oliver bought about twenty-five acres more of this land along Walnut street, of John Robinson, administrator of the estate of Thomas White.

The same year Henry Coleman bought about sixteen acres of this land from Oliver Whyte, and in 1822 sold part of it to Joseph Sewall, "being the southwest part of what is called Walnut Hill."

Other portions were bought by Samuel Philbrick and parts nearer the village by J. S. Wright. The easterly point of this land was retained by Mr. Oliver Whyte, where he built his mansion house, which stood there until the new portion of High street was opened. Certain lots of land in this vicinity are yet owned by his great-grandchildren, making continuous possession in this family for eight generations.

The children of Capt. Benjamin White were not baptized in infancy. In the First Parish record of baptisms under date of 1775, 4th Sept., we find the name of Susanna White, adult. Then in the marriage record under the same date we find the names of Nathaniel Seaver and Susanna White. The date of death entered on both these records establishes the identity of the bride. For this we are probably indebted to the painstaking care of Dr. Pierce. There is in town an excellent full-length portrait of this young couple painted soon after their marriage.

Mr. Seaver was of the Roxbury family descended from Robert Seaver in which the name Nathaniel occurs again and again to the present time. His father was the Nathaniel Seaver, Sr., who married first, Hannah, daughter of Deacon





Benjamin White and Margaret Weld and who married, second, Sarah Stevens, whose child Nathaniel, Jr., was.

The father's name appears frequently in the Town Records from 1723 to 1764, while that of the son appears but once, when in 1776 he served with Deacon Elisha Gardner and Captain Timothy Corey as a committee to sell at auction the pew of Mr. Isaac Winchester, deceased. Nathaniel Seaver, Jr., was half brother of Hannah, wife of Mr. John Goddard, and his name appears on the tablet in the Public Library presented to the town by that chapter of the D. A. R. which bears his sister's name.

Another half-sister, Mary Seaver, married David Ockington, to whom we shall recur later.

Seven children were born to Mr. Seaver and Susanna White; of these three died in infancy and one was of unsound mind. Their second son, Benjamin Franklin Seaver, died unmarried when a young man while on a mercantile voyage to South America. Their youngest child, Susan White Seaver, became the second wife of Moses Grant of Boston, a name well known a generation ago. She died at Philadelphia while on a journey seeking relief from the attacks of consumption.

Before 1790, Mr. Seaver had become one of those merchants and shipowners whose enterprise, after the Revolution, was carrying the flag of the new Republic into ports all over the world. In April, 1792, on board his ship the "Commerce" of Boston, he sailed from Madras bound for Bombay. His eldest son, Nathaniel Seaver, third, a lad of sixteen, accompanied him, and the ship's first mate was David Ockington, before mentioned, also from Brookline. In the Arabian Sea adverse winds drove them far to the northwest, and they lost their reckoning so that while thinking they were on the Malabar coast, they were in fact midway the southern shore of Arabia off Cape Morebet. On the tenth of July the ship struck on a bar and the next day they were compelled to take to their boats. Muscat, about four hundred miles to the eastward, was their nearest port, and they had hopes of sailing thither. Their small boats, however, were unfit to withstand



the storms they encountered, and they were driven ashore. Their crew consisted of twenty white men and seventeen Lascar sailors. In the landing, one boat was swamped and young Seaver and two others were drowned. In this strait, being unprovided with arms, they were at once attacked by Arabs and stripped of everything, even to their clothes. They then began a march toward Muscat without food or raiment, under a burning sun, along a shore almost destitute of water. Their sufferings were dreadful, and in their distress they separated into small groups. So far as is known only eight of the seventeen whites reached Muscat after a month of travel. Mr. Seaver was one of those who perished, but David Ockington escaped and returned to Brookline, where he died in 1822 at the age of seventy-six. The details of this disastrous voyage may be found in a little leather-bound volume printed at Salem in 1794, entitled "Saunders Journal," by Daniel Saunders, one of the survivors.

Some time after the death of Mr. Seaver, his widow married, as his second wife, Samuel Gore, a descendant in the fifth generation of John Gore, one of Roxbury's earliest settlers. He was the eldest of a large family of which the youngest was Governor Christopher Gore, whose mansion and estate at Watertown is still perhaps the finest example of stately beauty within our borders.

Mr. Theodore Watson Gore has kindly furnished me the following notes from his manuscripts. "Samuel Gore was a painter. He lived at one time in Green street at the corner of Pitts Lane, afterwards at the head of Brattle street. He was one of those stout-hearted patriots who furnished the muscle of the Revolution, whilst Samuel Adams and James Otis furnished the brains. He was one of those who seized the two brass guns 'Hancock' and 'Adams' now in Bunker Hill Monument, and conveyed them from the gun-house in Tremont street to the American lines under the very eyes of the British. Long before the Revolution, as early as 1722, a free school was established in what is now Mason street, near the corner of West street. It was then on the boundary of the Common; the land now lying between having been sold

off the Common. The school was called the South Writing School, and was the fourth in the town, and later was known as the Adams School. A gun-house stood at the corner of West street at the beginning of the Revolution, separated by a yard from the school house. In this gun-house were kept two brass three-pounders belonging to Captain Adin Paddock's Train. These pieces had been re-cast from two old guns sent by the Town of Boston to London for that purpose and had the arms of the province engraved upon them. They arrived in Boston in 1768, and were first used at the celebration of the King's birthday, June fourth, when a salute was fired in King street. Captain Paddock had expressed an intention of surrendering these guns to Governor Gage. The mechanics who composed this company resolved that it should not be so. The British General had begun to seize the military stores of the province and to disarm the inhabitants. Accordingly the persons engaged in the plot met in this school-room, and when the attention of the sentinel stationed at the door of the gun-house was taken off by roll-call, they crossed the yard, entered the building, and, removing the guns from their carriages, took them to the school-room where they were concealed in a box in which fuel was kept. The loss of the guns was soon discovered and search made from which the school-house did not escape. The master placed his lame foot on the box and it was not examined. Several of the boys were privy to the affair but made no sign.

"Beside the school-master and Samuel Gore, Abraham Holbrook, Nathaniel Balch, Moses Grant, Jeremiah Gridley and ——— Whiston were concerned in this coup-de-main. The guns remained a fortnight in the school-room, at the end of which time they were taken in a wheelbarrow at night to Whiston's blacksmith shop at the South End and deposited under the coal. From here they were taken to the American lines in a boat. The guns were in active service during the whole war.

"The first Glass-Works in Boston were located in what is now Edinboro street. The company was established in 1787. The Legislature granted the company the exclusive right to



manufacture for fifteen years, and exemption from taxes for five years. The workmen were relieved from military duty. The company erected at first a brick building conical in form, but this, proving too small, was taken down and replaced by a wooden building, one hundred feet long by sixty in breadth. After many embarrassments the company began the manufacture of glass in November, 1793. Samuel Gore was one of the originators of this enterprise, but the company failed to make the manufacture remunerative.

"A collection of the arms of New England families was made during the last century. The original manuscript is at present inaccessible, but there exists a very careful copy printed by Isaac Child, Esq., a gentleman well versed in the rules of Heraldry. This transcript may be accepted as entirely authentic. The earliest recorded coats are dated 1701 and 1703, the latest 1724. It seems highly probable that the dates refer to the times when the memoranda were made. Mr. Child's copy says, made by John Gore, but it is certain that an English Heraldic Manuscript which was preserved with the book had inscribed in it the name of Samuel Gore. Dr. Drake has also a bill dated 1783 from Samuel Gore to Governor John Hancock, in which these items occur:—

To painting chariot body and wheels. . . . .	£15-0-0
To painting sill of coach and wheels. . . . .	1-4-0
To drawing arms on paper . . . . .	0-3-0

From this it would appear probable that Samuel Gore was the painter of the arms in the Manuscript.

"Samuel Gore was severely wounded in the affair of February 22, 1770. On that day some boys and children set up a large wooden head on a board faced with paper, on which were painted the figures of four of the importers who had violated the merchant's agreement (as to the paying of the stamp-tax). This board was set up in the street before Theophilus Lillie's door. Soon after it was set up, a famous importer, who lived but a few doors off, came along and endeavored to persuade a countryman to drive his cart against it, but that individual had no disposition to meddle. Not long after this the importer tried to get a man with a charcoal cart to break down

the image, but he declined also. The importer became vexed at his ill success and the bystanders became amused, so he returned to his own house followed by numerous boys and others. As he was returning he passed Mr. Edward Proctor, Mr. Thomas Knox, and Captains Reodan and Skillings, at whom he cried, 'Perjury, Perjury.' Upon this angry and insulting language followed upon both sides; missiles were thrown at the importer by the boys who, at length, compelled him to shut himself up in his house. Not satisfied with being safe there, he most unwisely undertook to revenge himself, which he did by firing a gun from two windows, severely wounding Samuel Gore, then twenty years of age, and mortally wounding another boy, Christopher Snider, about eleven years of age, who died the following evening. On the twentieth of April next, Richardson was tried for his life and brought in guilty of murder. Governor Hutchinson, however, refused to sign the warrant, viewing the case as clearly being one of justifiable homicide. After lying in prison two years, Richardson was, on application to the King, pardoned and set at liberty.

"Samuel Gore was also one of the men who made up the Boston Tea Party. The tradition is that it was he who watched outside and gave the Indian whoop which was the signal to rush to the wharf."

Samuel Gore died in 1831; Mrs. Susanna Seaver Gore in 1832. Their niece, who remembers their home in the later years of their life, tells me that it was on or near Tremont street, close by the present Roxbury Crossing.

Thomas White, born in 1763, was the third son of Captain Benjamin, and for many years was one of the picturesque characters of Brookline. His name appears first on the town records as one of the chainmen employed by Mr. Jonathan Kingsbury of Needham, who surveyed a number of estates in the town in 1781. In 1792, the January Town Meeting was held at his house. In 1806, he was on a committee, with Mr. Thomas Whalley and Mr. William Marshall, to audit the accounts of the committee which was building the new meeting-house. He was also chosen clerk of the market for that

year. In 1811 he was surveyor of the highways for the second district which seems to have been his last public service.

Thomas White lived during much of his adult life on the old John White homestead lot where Whyte's Block now is, at the foot of Walnut street. Possibly the old house formed a part of the group of buildings gathered there which included the country store kept by White and Sumner and later by George Washington Stearns. No doubt the patrons found it very convenient to the Punch Bowl Tavern, which ranged its inviting length along the opposite side of the village street. Some of the deeds on record at Dedham, style Thomas White "Trader," others at a later date name him "Gentleman." Among his closest associates was Mr. Isaac Davis, a man about his own age, a son of Benjamin Davis, Sr., and a grandson of Deacon Ebenezer Davis and Sarah White. Mr. Davis occupied a farm on both sides of the old Roxbury road, taking in the land from the Ebenezer Crafts farm to that of Ebenezer Francis, and extending from Muddy River up on to the slopes of Parker Hill, where the quarries are now worked. Mr. Davis lived to the age of eighty-seven. He married the eldest and the youngest daughters of Aaron White, who went from Brookline to Roxbury, and the members of my father's family heard many stories of old-time days from "Uncle Davis," as he was usually called. Not a few of these tales related to the doings of himself and "Tom White," for both were ardent sportsmen noted for their skill with both rifle and fowling-piece. Turkey shootings were then much in vogue and these cronies often went together. The shootings were a speculation to the man who set up the turkeys as well as to those who paid twenty-five cents per shot, and if Tom White and Isaac Davis attended one together, there was usually small profit to the proprietor. They were sometimes barred out, it is said, where their skill was known, or limited as to the number of shots they might make.

Neither of the sons of Capt. Benjamin White married early in life. As we have seen, their father left a large acreage of land at his death, but it was heavily incumbered and his sons had to make their own way, and no doubt it took a sturdy

effort to retain so much of the family estate as Thomas White became possessed of. In 1803, when forty years of age, he married Rachel Thayer, daughter of Capt. Jedediah Thayer of Woburn, who had been an officer in the Continental Army through much of the War of Independence. He was of the Braintree Thayers, sprung from Thomas Thayer, freeman of Braintree in 1640. On her mother's side, Mrs. White was a descendant of Richard Thayer, a freeman of Boston in 1647, but who died at Braintree. One of her nephews was Gideon French Thayer, founder of the Chauncy Hall School, and previously teacher in a Brookline private school. We noticed that Susanna White was baptized on her wedding day. Thomas White, her brother, was baptized by Dr. Pierce on May 19, 1805, on the day when he brought his oldest child, Thomas, then three weeks old for the same ceremony.

Thomas White died in 1819. Mrs. White, who was twenty-one years his junior, died in 1850. They had six children; two of them died in infancy. Their second son, also named Thomas, died in 1836, at the age of twenty-five and unmarried. Their daughter Rachel, died also unmarried in 1841.

Their second daughter, Elizabeth, married Mr. W. H. Perry of Sherborn, and after her death, the youngest daughter, Susanna, became Mr. Perry's second wife.

The Perry farm on the southerly slopes of Brush Hill in Sherborn was a noted one a half century ago, especially for its apples; and it is still one of attractive appearance. On the crest of the hill about an acre of ground is yet owned by Mr. Perry's children, though devoted to the uses of the town, which has built a tower thereon from which the outlook is very wide.

The youngest son of Benjamin and Elizabeth White was Oliver. For reasons connected with business convenience, he wrote his surname "Whyte," to which form of spelling his descendants have adhered. With his name we seem to step out of a past age, of which the characters must be pictured from records too often scanty, into one with which not a few now living are familiar.

Born in 1771, he went when a young man to engage in business in Georgia, to which state his oldest brother had al-

ready gone to make his home. He settled in Petersburg, becoming a prosperous merchant, where he seems to have remained until about 1803. That he kept pretty closely in touch with his native town, and looked forward to returning thither, is evidenced by his several purchases of lands of the old White homestead farm, as we have already seen. At the March meeting of 1810, he was on the auditing committee, and on the one appointed to inspect the town's stock of arms, uniforms and ammunition; with him were Captains Joseph Jones and Joshua C. Clark. From that date to the time of his death, Mr. Whyte was continuously in the town's service in various capacities. He was chosen Selectman and Assessor in 1818, and annually thereafter until 1831. He was Town Treasurer from 1829 to 1838. In making their report for that year the Auditing Committee, Dr. Charles Wild, Dea. Elijah Corey and Mr. Ebenezer Heath close by saying: "We wish to express our opinion that the thanks of the town are especially due to Mr. Oliver Whyte, late Town Treasurer, for the faithful manner in which he has so long performed the duties which he has now relinquished."

The Post Office was established in Brookline, March 3, 1829, and Mr. Oliver Whyte was appointed post-master, continuing as such until the close of the year 1842. In the Public Library is a small manuscript volume containing his copies of correspondence and accounts relating to the Post Office. Every page of this book is evidence of his accuracy and care, and of his taste for preserving exact records. His returns to the General Post Office were made quarterly. For the term from July 1st to October 1st, 1829, being the first full quarter of the Brookline Office, the total receipts of the office were \$69.09¼. The pay of the post-master for that quarter was \$24.04½, being thirty per cent of the letter postage and fifty per cent of the rates on newspapers. For the same quarter of 1842 the total receipts were \$122.57.

In December, 1841, Mr. Whyte addressed a letter to the Post-Master General which is interesting from several points of view. It reads: "Brookline, Dec. — 1841. Sir. Your circular requiring names and certificates of sufficiency of sureties



OLIVER WHYTE, SENIOR,  
[In his 72d year.]





was duly received. But, as I am about to resign my office, as soon after the conclusion of the present quarter as I can have a suitable successor recommended by those most interested in the good management of the office, and feeling myself equal to the responsibility for the present quarter, I have not been so prompt in my reply as I otherwise should have been. The sureties which I gave on entering the duties of the office have, I believe, both deceased some years since. But as I have held the office so long (perhaps there is no person in the United States now living who received a commission as post-master so early and continued it so many years and made more prompt quarterly returns and payments), I hope you will excuse my omission to return sureties for the present quarter. I shall feel sufficiently interested to see that the person recommended as my successor is equal to the responsibilities and duties of the office.

“My first appointment as post-master was at Petersburg, Georgia, soon after the establishment of a post-office there in 1793 or 94, from Timothy Pickering (when the list of post-offices in the United States was contained on one side of a small sheet of paper), and renewed by Joseph Habersham and continued by Gideon Granger. While holding this commission I removed from Georgia to this place, and when a post-office was established here I took the appointment which I have held from that time, and my quarterly account has been made out and the balance deposited or payment made agreeable to orders from the department by my own hands. The balance of the present quarter I shall pay over to Mr. McIntosh, the mail contractor, without further orders from the department. C. A. Wickliffe, P. M. Gen.”

At the end of a letter to John A. Bryan, second Assistant Post-Master General, enclosing final accounts, November 11, 1842, this memorandum appears :

“This compleats, in all probability, my official duties with the post-office department, which was commenced in 1793 or 4 and which, I hope, has proved generally correct and acceptable.”

The public service, however, for which Mr. Whyte is oftenest recalled and in which he engaged the longest was that of

Town Clerk, the duties of which office he performed for twenty-seven years, from 1814 to 1842. Among the things which he at once set about doing as Town Clerk was the making of a transcript of the old first volume of Muddy River Records, which was falling into decay. His copy, thus made, forms Book No. 3 of the Town Records. As an adjunct to this book he put into tabular form the birth-lists of many of the older Brookline families, grouping the names of the children under those of their parents, a work which he was well fitted to do and one which has since proved exceedingly helpful.

In 1812, Mr. Whyte married Mrs. Elizabeth (Richardson) Grafton, and their home was made in the house which, as before stated, stood where the Union Building now is, at the junction of High and Walnut streets. In 1844, Mr. White died. Mrs. White survived him until 1871 in her ninety-second year. They had three sons, and their only daughter is still living among us at an advanced age. Of their sons, Edward Henry married Miss Eliza Trescott, but died in 1847 without issue.

Benjamin Franklin married Miss Ellen Jane Hall. He died in Medford in 1887, and his five children live in the neighborhood of Boston.

Oliver Whyte, Jr., married Miss Elizabeth Bullard. He died in Brookline in 1885, leaving one daughter. He served the town for many years upon the Water Board and as Selectman, as well as in other capacities.

The eldest son of Captain Benjamin White, born in 1758, was named Edward, after his grandfather. No records of his boyhood remain to us, but we can easily imagine the eager interest with which he listened to what was talked of around him and at his father's house in the days just before the Revolutionary War. In 1775 the only organized military company in Brookline was the one under Captain Thomas White. This Thomas White was a son of Sarah Aspinwall and thus a cousin of Elizabeth Aspinwall, Edward White's mother. He was son of Benjamin White and grandson of Dea. Benjamin White, Jr., before mentioned. This relation-

ship may in some degree account for our finding Edward White, though not yet sixteen and a half years of age, enrolled as a private in this company and returned as one who marched on the Lexington Alarm and as in service twenty-three days. We next find him recorded as Ensign in Captain Nahum Ward's company of the Ninth Massachusetts Regiment in the Continental Army, commanded by Colonel James Wesson. Col. Wesson, we may recall, was Edward White's uncle by his marriage in 1768 to Ann White.

The Massachusetts Archives contain upward of twenty references to Edward White and those at Washington several more, from which it appears that he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Ninth Regiment dating from March 6, 1778. He was transferred, as was Col. Wesson, to the Eighth Massachusetts, and again to the Third, in which regiment he was Lieutenant of the Light Infantry Company under Colonel Michael Jackson, as shown by a roll dated October 5, 1783. In a notice of his death in the Savannah Evening Ledger it is stated that he held a major's commission in the Continental Army, but if so, no record of it is yet found, though he was certainly styled Major and is so recorded in the Public Records of Savannah. I have thought it possible that his having in possession the old colonial commission of his grandfather of 1742, may have had something to do with it, the names being identical. That he was in Brookline after the Revolution is indicated by his joining his father in signing a mortgage note recorded in 1784 at Dedham, among Norfolk Deeds.

In 1785, he went to Savannah, Ga., where he lived for the remainder of his life. He was clerk of the Court Ordinary of Chatham county for a number of years (the Probate Court), and in 1797, June 22d, was appointed Surveyor of the Port of Savannah, which office he held for life. The City Records contain the following remarks: "The deceased bore a Major's commission in the Revolution and acquitted himself with honor. He was a resident of the city for twenty-seven years, during which he filled several important stations. He has left a widow and four children and a good property. Died at and was buried from his house. His funeral was attended by the Union Society and the Volunteer Corps of Savannah."

In the old Savannah Cemetery, now a part of Colonial Park, is his burial stone, inscribed, "Sacred to the memory of Major Edward White, an officer of the Revolutionary Army, who died January 9th, A. D. 1812, aged 54."

In 1792, Major White married Mildred Scott Stubbs of, Louisville, Georgia. She died July 23, 1825, and was buried at Milledgeville. They had three sons and one daughter, one son dying in childhood. The daughter, Maria Susan White, born in 1805, married in 1825, Mr. Francis Vincent de Launay. Of their four sons and five daughters, eight lived to maturity, and their descendants are now a numerous company.

Thomas White, born in 1801, became a planter and removed to Alabama and later to Mississippi, where he died in 1867. He was twice married, and by his daughters left a number of descendants now living. Of his sons but one, William Lee White, lived to maturity and was killed in 1864, a minor officer in a Mississippi regiment.

Major Edward White's eldest son, born in 1793, received the name of Benjamin Aspinwall, associating the names of his grandparents. To him our Brookline was a familiar place as well as the home of his ancestry. He came to Roxbury to live with his aunt, Mrs. Gore, while preparing for college, and in 1811, he graduated from Harvard with a Master of Arts degree. In 1815, he graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Two years later he married at Savannah Miss Jane Eleanor de Clensie, and in 1821, removed and established himself on a fine plantation near Milledgeville, where he became a very successful physician as well as planter. To his estate he gave the name of "Brookline" and so it is still called, although a fire, some years ago, destroyed his house upon it. Dr. White was held in the highest esteem personally, and as a physician. For twenty-five years he was annually chosen president of the State Board of Medical Examiners.

He was one of the pioneers in establishing the Hospital for the Insane at Milledgeville, which he served in several capacities. The Civil War found him in his sixty-ninth year, but he at once volunteered and he served actively throughout the war. A part of the time he was Surgeon-General of the

Georgia State troops. Dr. White died on the sixteenth of April, 1866. The next day the following notice of his death appeared in the Milledgeville "Federal Union:—"

[From The Federal Union (Milledgeville, Georgia), April 17th, 1866.]

#### DEATH OF DR. BENJ. A. WHITE.

Dr. Benj. A. White died at his residence in this city Monday morning, April 16th 1866, in the 74th year of his age. Dr. White was born at Louisville, Jefferson County, Ga., and was the son of Maj. White, of Savannah, a distinguished soldier of the Revolutionary War. He was educated at Cambridge, Mass., and was a classmate of Edward Everett, and Drs. Webster and Parkman of Boston. He was Surgeon General of the State of Georgia, during the first year of the late war, and was President of the Medical Examiners Board of this State at the time of his death.

He has been a citizen of this county nearly a half century. Highly educated and devoted to his profession, he became very soon after his entrance upon the field of duty, distinguished as a physician and surgeon, not only in the immediate circle of his practice, but throughout the State. The death of no man in the community could be more regretted. Honest, conscientious, highly gifted by nature, eminent in his profession, kind and affable in his deportment to all, he was the idol of his family, beloved by his friends, and universally respected. He died at a good old age, after a life of ceaseless labor, and great usefulness, unspotted by an act of intentional injustice to his fellow-man. Few men were more modest—but no man was more decided when duty called upon him to act.

In contemplating his character, we are reminded of the language of a distinguished author: "In life we shall find many men that are great, and some men that are good, but very few men that are both great and good." Dr. White was both great and good.

In this brief notice, we could not hope to do justice to the life and character of such a man as Dr. White—other pens must perform the office. He died surrounded by his wife, children, relatives and friends, peacefully, rational to the last, and with a clear and unobscured vision of his spirit's happy home.

In his will he expressly provided that the merest essentials should be furnished for his burial, and that a sum equivalent to the customary funeral expense of a well-to-do gentleman, should be given for the use of the orphans of Confederate soldiers in his native state. This was done as he desired, but the affection of his friends found expression in a wealth of

flowers which covered everything with their beauty. Mrs. White died November 17, 1873, and was buried in the family lot in the Milledgeville City Cemetery.

Dr. and Mrs. White had ten children; of these, eight were married, and there were, all told, fifty grandchildren, so that this branch of John White's descendants seems in little danger of extinction or of the loss of the family name.

Dr. White's second son was named Thomas Williams, in memory of the Mr. Williams who had brought up Mrs. White after the early death of her parents. After preparing for college he came North, spending some six years before going home. He was one year at the Military Academy at West Point. Later he entered Norwich University at Northfield, Vermont, where he graduated in 1841. He also made an extended visit in Brookline with Mr. Oliver Whyte and his family. Subsequently he taught school in Ohio and then returned to Milledgeville, where he studied law and began the practice of that profession.

In 1849 he organized and led a company which, after eight months of hardships, made the overland journey to California. Mr. White was the engineer who laid out San José for the proprietors, and was chosen Mayor of the new city. He was also made judge in the county courts. In 1854 he returned to Milledgeville, having prospered in California; and the next year he again visited Brookline. At the beginning of the Civil War he raised a company, of which he was captain for a year, when he was transferred to the Engineer Corps and put in charge of the coast works of Georgia. He planned and built Ft. McAllister, near Savannah, having command there when captured by Gen. Sherman in December 1864. Upon his release from Ft. Delaware, at the close of the war, he resumed the practice of law in Milledgeville, and was a county judge there also.

In 1866 he married Miss Henrietta Alston Kenan, leaving, at his death twelve years later, his widow and one daughter.

Dr. White's third son received the name of Samuel Gore; he died when young, and the fourth son, born in 1824, took the name. In 1845 he graduated in medicine from Jefferson



Medical College at Philadelphia. His high standing is shown by his having filled the position of demonstrator in anatomy during a part of his last term. In 1846 he was appointed assistant surgeon, U. S. Navy, remaining in this service until the close of the Mexican War. He then settled in Milledgeville, where he practiced medicine until 1859, when he went to Europe for travel and further study.

Returning on the outbreak of war, he was commissioned surgeon in Cobb's Legion of Georgia Cavalry, in which service he continued four years. Dr. White was one of the ablest surgeons in the army, and performed with great skill many capital operations. He was a chivalrous and skillful officer, greatly loved by his soldiers.

At the close of the war he returned to his native city, worn down by service and with property swept away in the tide of conflict. He again took up his profession until his death in May, 1877.

For twenty years he was president of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital for Insane, and held other offices of trust. He was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church and a man honored in the community where he lived. In 1849 he married Miss Caroline Anne, daughter of Charles and Eliza Bullock, their family numbering eleven children.

The fifth son of Dr. B. A. White was named Edward James, as had been the eldest son who died in childhood. He was trained as a pharmacist. In the Civil War he was commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel of Georgia State Militia, serving the full four years. For several years he was treasurer and steward of the Georgia State Sanitarium. He was twice married, in 1852 to Miss Joseph J. Cotton, who left one son, Howard. In 1858 he married Miss Melissa Adrian Hill, by whom he had two sons, Joseph Hill and Thomas Edward. He died in 1881.

Mary Virginia was the eldest of Dr. White's three daughters. In 1853 she married Rev. Habersham Jackson Adams of Athens, Ga. She died the year following, leaving no children.

The next son received his father's name, Benjamin Aspinwall. He was born in 1835, and in 1861 he became Captain of Company A, in Colonel Stiles' Twenty-sixth Georgia Regiment, serving during the entire war. Subsequently he was employed



by his State in map-drafting. At a later period he engaged in farming. His home is at Marietta, Georgia.

He married in 1859 Miss Ella Aurelia Kenan, a sister of Mrs. Thomas Williams White. Mrs. B. A. White died in 1895, seven of her eight children surviving her.

Two daughters came next in Dr. White's family, Rosa Jane and Susan Elizabeth. Each was married in 1859, the first to Mr. James Augustus Clendenin, having a family of ten; the second to Mr. Miller Bond Grant, having nine children, of whom six survived her.

I have been told that at the time of her marriage in 1817 Mrs. Benj. A. White was called the most beautiful girl in Savannah, and that her sweetness and beauty of character were equally pronounced. That the three daughters inherited the attractiveness of their mother, I am assured by their sister-in-law as well as by their friends in our Brookline, whom they visited a short while before their marriage.

The youngest of this numerous family, born in 1844, was given the much used name of Oliver. At an age almost the same as that of his grandfather at the opening of the Revolution, he enlisted as a private in 1861, serving in Company A, of Hampton's Cavalry, Young's Brigade, Phillips Legion in the Army of Northern Virginia.

In 1867 he married Miss Mary K. Johnston, a daughter of Colonel Mark Johnston. They have a family of seven children. Mr. Oliver White lives on the old home place, "Brookline," near Milledgeville. Not many now remember it as it was, filled with the young life of Dr. White's large family and their friends. The inevitable changes of more than two score years were vastly increased by the destruction and overthrow of the Civil War which claimed the father and the five sons, though their lives were spared. Mrs. Thomas W. White in a letter says: "You speak of returning to Brookline; the name recalls many sweet memories of the 'Long ago' when we (young people then) had merry times at 'Old Brookline,' as father's country place was called. I wish you could have visited our family then. You would have been a welcome guest. Hospitality only expresses the life of it. The terrible changes since those happy days makes us fully realize the shortness of this life's joys."





## THE CENTENNIAL OF BLUE HILL ACADEMY.

A paper by R. G. F. Candage. Read at the meeting of the Society, Dec. 23, 1903.

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The essential part of town history is not an enumeration of its material resources and individual wealth, however interesting such may be, which in this era of commercialism are too often taken to be the true measure, but is contained in the higher and nobler aspirations, character and intelligence of its people. The founders of Blue Hill, like the earlier founders of other New England towns, were poor in purse, but rich in strength of body and mind, character and native intelligence, which enabled them to endure the toils and hardships incident to subduing the forest and planting upon that distant shore, far from kindred and friendly neighbors, new homes and a centre of civilization destined to challenge the admiration of their descendants.

Through the town meeting they established law and order, formed a church for their spiritual guidance and set up a school for the education of their children, that, as they said, "they might not grow up like the heathen." The church and school went hand in hand in the new community, to teach duty to God, neighbor, country and self, and the children to be intelligent and fitted to take their places in the community on reaching maturity.

If the founders of New England had given nothing to the land of their adoption but church and school they would have deserved well, but they gave much more. They framed and enacted laws which they enforced, framed constitutions and established a nation, with intelligence and manhood for its sovereign, of which every American should feel proud.

The founders were men of sturdy Puritan character, with high regard for law and order, with reverence for the teachings of the church and school as instruments for moulding character and thought, for conserving the happiness and welfare of the community.

Blue Hill was settled by John Roundy and Joseph Wood from Beverly, Mass., at the place called the Falls, in 1762, where they erected two log cabins, to which they brought their families the following spring, each consisting of a wife and six children.

There are at this time descendants of Joseph Wood residing in Brookline, and the speaker and his children are lineal descendants of John Roundy.

In the next few years a number of persons were added to the settlement from Beverly and Andover, who added to the importance and increased the influence of the place.

In 1765, three years after Roundy and Wood built their log cabins, the tide mill "Industry" for sawing lumber was built, at the raising of which, it is said, "every person of the hamlet was present and all sat at one table at dinner."

In 1767 the first town meeting was held, when John Roundy was chosen town clerk, John Roundy, Jonathan Darling and Benjamin York were chosen selectmen: Nicholas Holt being moderator of the meeting.

In March, 1769, it was voted "to raise money to hire a person to preach the Gospel to us and to pay his Board so that we may not bring up our children like the Heathen." In 1769, "Voted to raise by subscription 150 (dollars) to Defray the Charge of Preaching." "Voted a Committee to see that the Gospel is preached to us." "Voted to repair the Old Meeting House for a place of Public Worship."

These extracts from the records show plainly that they were hungering for the Gospel to be preached to them.

The March meeting of 1772 was held in the meeting house at the Falls, and in the following October, ten years after the settlement, the Congregational Church was formed therein consisting of fourteen members, Rev. Daniel Little of Wells officiating at the services.

It was the 24th Congregational Church organized in the district of Maine, the nearest being at Phippsburg, and the next nearest at Brunswick.

There is evidence that a school had been kept in the settlement, probably supported by private subscription, but it was

not till after the town's incorporation in January, 1789, that an appropriation appears to have been granted for, or mention of a school is made in the town records. After that, money was raised to build schoolhouses and for support of schools.

The town grew in population and importance, roads were built through it to Sedgwick, Surry, Penobscot, and elsewhere; lands were cleared, houses built and general activity prevailed until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, which checked its growth. The people of the plantation were loyal to the interests of the Colonies, and adopted such measures as to them seemed wise in aid of the Patriots' cause. They chose committees of Safety and Correspondence, and on July 17, 1775, one month after the Battle of Bunker Hill, a town meeting was held, at which it was "Voted that Lieut. Nicholas Holt, Joshua Horton and John Peters be Delegates to meet Delegates of other towns, Islands and Districts at the house of Mr. John Bean of Frenchman's Bay, 20th inst., to act on anything they shall think proper on said Day."

March 28, 1776, the citizens met in town meeting, chose Joseph Wood Moderator, Joshua Horton, Nathan Parker and David Carleton a Committee of Correspondence, and John Peters, Zedediah Shattuck and John Roundy a Committee of Safety. The three years following they took like action, but in 1779 Castine was captured by British forces and held till the close of the war, which overawed the inhabitants of that region, and no more town meetings at Blue Hill are recorded until March, 1784, when the war was at an end.

Among the first settlers of Blue Hill, Col. Nathan Parker and Jonathan Darling from Andover, were at the siege and fall of Louisburg in 1758, and Christopher Osgood and Nehemiah Hinckley were soldiers of the Revolution, serving through the war.

During the Revolution the town suffered loss of its trade, and its citizens many privations, but they were borne with heroic fortitude and without waver of their patriotism.

When peace came all rejoiced and at once set about the work of amending their shattered fortunes, and in carrying

forward improvements in the hamlet, which had been interrupted by the war.

They raised money to support the church; procured land on which to build a new meeting house, and school house; petitioned the Massachusetts Great and General Court for an act of incorporation of their town, which was granted by that body on January 30, 1789.

In 1790, the town voted to build a new meeting house, to be 50 x 40 feet, and one hundred pounds was appropriated towards the expense of the same. In 1792 a change was made in the location of the meeting house, and another vote was passed dividing the town into classes for building the same. A vote was then passed which today would seem extraordinary, "Voted to empower the selectmen to procure one barrel of rum, also molasses and sugar enough for framing and raising the meeting house."

Rev. Jonathan Fisher was the first regular pastor of the church who was ordained under a tent in a field opposite the present site of the old town hall, July 13, 1796, the meeting house not having been completed. Rev. Peter Powers, of Deer Isle, preached the ordination sermon.

Rev. Jonathan Fisher was of the Dedham, Mass., family, a graduate of Harvard College, and a college mate of the late Rev. John Pierce, D. D., of Brookline, and between the two there existed a lifelong friendship.

Rev. Jonathan Fisher received his license to preach from the Cambridge Association in Brookline on October 1, 1793. Col. Horace N. Fisher of Brookline, a member of this society, is descended from the same line of ancestry, and Messrs. Charles and William H. White, also members of this society, are descended from the Averys, Rev. Mr. Fisher's mother's ancestry.

The meeting house, constructed after many votes of the town, with care and what was then thought, great expense, with square pews, gallery, high pulpit, sounding-board and three porch entrances, like the Old South in Boston, stood until the first Sunday in 1842, when it was destroyed by fire caught from an overheated stove or funnel.



Rev. Mr. Fisher was pastor of the church for forty-one years, resigning his charge in consequence of age and declining health. He died in 1847, aged 79 years.

The writer sat under his preaching as a small boy and remembers him well. He was a man of great energy and a devout Christian, to whose teachings and example the people of the town were greatly indebted.

To him perhaps more than to any other person the town was indebted for the founding of its Academy. He was an earnest promotor of education and often prayed for the "Divine blessing upon the Bangor Theological Seminary (of which he was a trustee), the Academy and the Common Schools."

In March, 1802, a paper was circulated and signed by thirty-one citizens of the town, agreeing to erect an academy building, the text of which was as follows:—

"We the subscribers being impressed with a belief that an academy in this part of the country, under proper regulations, will be particularly advantageous to the rising generation, therefore do hereby agree for ourselves and each of us, our and each of our executors and administrators, to erect a building for that purpose within the town of Bluehill, on the spot already agreed upon for that purpose, which building shall be thirty-eight feet long, thirty feet wide, two stories high, the first story eleven feet, and the second story ten feet high, and shall be completed in every respect suitable for an Academy, on or about the first day of November next, and we do further agree to provide a preceptor suitable in every respect for such an institution on or before the first day of January next."

They divided the captital stock into one hundred shares, at five dollars each, and further bound themselves to maintain the school for the period of ten years, and provided that the shares should be assessable for such sums as might be needed for building the house and for the support of the school.

The subscribers to that agreement were: Eben Floyd, 1 share; Daniel Spofford, 2 shares; Theodore Stevens, 3 shares; Jonathan Ellis, 5 shares; Phineas Osgood, 5 shares; Daniel

Osgood, 5 shares ; Israel Robinson, 2 shares ; Nathan Parker, Jr., 2 shares ; Enoch Briggs, 2 shares ; Peter Colburn, 1 share ; Robert Parker, 14 shares ; John Peters, 6 shares ; Daniel Faulkner, 3 shares ; Joseph Treworgy, 1 share ; Jedediah Holt, 2 shares ; John Dodge, 1 share ; Andrew Witham, 14 shares ; Nathan Parker, 2 shares ; Reuben Dodge, 2 shares ; Obed Johnson, 2 shares ; John Chapman, 1 share ; George Stevens, 1 share ; Jonathan Clay, 1 share ; Joshua Horton, 1 share ; Isaac Osgood, 5 shares ; Nathan Ellis, 1 share ; Peter Parker, 2 shares ; Silas Bunker, 2 shares ; Samuel Wood, 2 shares ; Joshua Oaks, 1 share ; and Omaziah Dodge, 2 shares.

On March 8, 1803, the school was incorporated as Bluehill Academy. The preamble to the act sets forth that "Whereas the encouragement of literature in the rising generation has been considered by the wise and good as an object worthy of the most serious attention, and as the safety and happiness of a free people ultimately depend upon the advantages arising from a pious, virtuous and liberal education, and

"Whereas it appears that John Peters and several other gentlemen residing chiefly in the town of Bluehill, have subscribed to build and support an Academy for the term of ten years from the time of its incorporation —

"Section 1. Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, that there be and hereby is established in the town of Bluehill in the County of Hancock an Academy by the name of Bluehill Academy, for the purpose of promoting true piety and virtue and for the education of youth in such liberal arts, sciences and languages as opportunity may permit and the trustees hereinafter provided shall direct.

"Section 2. Be It Further Enacted that David Cobb, John Peters, David Thurston, Jonathan Buck and Thomas Cobb, Esquires, Rev. Jonathan Fisher, Rev. William Mason, Rev. Jonathan Powers, Messrs. Robert Parker, Theodore Stevens, Donald Ross, and John Peters, Jr., be and they hereby are incorporated in a body politic by the name of the Trustees of the Bluehill Academy, and they and their successors shall be

and continue a body politic and incorporated by the same name forever."

In June following the General Court granted to the Academy an endowment of half a township of land in a resolve as follows :—

"*Resolved*, That for reasons set forth in said petitions (of Bluehill and Hampden Academies,) that there be and hereby is granted the Trustees of each of said Academies and to their successors forever, one-half township of land of six square miles, out of any of the unappropriated lands within the district of Maine, excepting the ten townships lately purchased of the Penobscot Indians, to be laid out under the direction of the agents for the sale of Eastern Lands and in such place as they shall direct.

"In the House of Representatives, June 15, 1803, H. G. Otis, Speaker.

"In the Senate, June 17, 1803, David Cobb, President.

"Approved June 18, 1803, Caleb Strong, Governor."

The half township granted to Blue Hill Academy by that Resolve was half of Plantation No. 23 in Washington County. It was sold in 1806 to Thomas Ruggles, of Columbia, at sixty cents per acre, netting \$6,200, to the Academy.

In addition to the above Nathan Jones of Gouldsboro donated a lot of land which sold for \$300 and those two sums, so far as the records show, are all the Academy received from the State or from individuals, previous to its union with George Stevens Academy in 1897.

The efforts of Rev. Jonathan Fisher and friends for the establishment of the Academy at Blue Hill were crowned with success in March, 1803, when the act of incorporation was obtained, and the building was completed and dedicated in April of that year, Mr. Fisher delivering the address at its dedication. He continued a member of the Board of Trustees for many years and exhibited much interest in the institution to the end of his life.

In 1804 the Board of Trustees organized with choice of David Cobb, President; Jonathan Fisher, Vice-President; Theodore Stevens, Secretary; and John Peters, Treasurer.

David Cobb was born in Attleboro, Mass., September 14, 1748; graduated from Harvard College in 1760; settled in Taunton, Mass., where he practised medicine. He was Lieut.-Colonel in the Continental army and served on the staff of General Washington. After the war he was elected to Congress from Massachusetts and was a member of that body for the years 1793-95; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas at the time of Shay's rebellion; President of the Massachusetts Senate 1801-05, and Lieut.-Governor of the State in 1809. From 1796 to 1820 he was a resident of Gouldsboro, Maine, and land agent of the Bingham Purchase of lands in that district. He was a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Hancock County. He died at Taunton, Mass., April 17, 1830.

He was the friend of Washington, Knox, Generals Hamilton, Lafayette and other prominent officers of the Revolution, and was one of the founders of the Order of the Cincinnati. It was through him that his grandson, Samuel C. Cobb, late Mayor of Boston, became a member and head of the Cincinnati in Massachusetts.

Lieut.-Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., of the State of Massachusetts, is a great-grandson of Gen. Cobb, his mother being a sister of the late Hon. Samuel C. Cobb.

Rev. Jonathan Fisher, Vice-President, was born in New Braintree, Mass., October 7, 1768, and was the eldest child of Captain Jonathan and Catherine (Avery) Fisher. His father was born in Dedham, Mass., and was an officer in the Provincial army stationed on the frontier at New Braintree at the time his son was born. In 1773, the family removed to West Hampton, Mass., where their home was until 1776, when Captain Fisher resigned his commission in the Continental army. He died of camp fever at Morristown, New Jersey, March 10, 1777.

Jonathan, the son, resided with his mother at Dedham at the time of his father's death and entered Harvard College from that town in 1788, from which he graduated in 1792. His efforts toward founding the Academy have already been recounted, and his influence upon the Board of Trustees was always helpful to the institution. His influence upon the

religious and moral well-being of the citizens of the town need not be enumerated here, it being sufficient to state that it was large.

Theodore Stevens, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, was born in Andover, Mass., July 12, 1763, and went to Blue Hill in early life. He was an earnest supporter of education, an enterprising citizen. He was secretary but a short time, resigning of his own volition. He died in 1820, leaving behind an honorable name.

John Peters, Treasurer, was born in Andover, Mass., August 18, 1741, and went to Blue Hill in 1765, and there resided until his death in 1821. He was a land surveyor, a friend of David Cobb, a man of enterprise and an influential citizen. To him was entrusted the duty of presenting the petition to the Massachusetts General Court for the incorporation of the Academy. There were no steamboats nor railroads in those days, and 'tis said that he rode horseback from Blue Hill to Boston, to present the petition, and upon receiving the act of incorporation rode back home.

John Peters gave the bell to the Blue Hill church destroyed by fire January, 1842, and which was tolled for the first time at his death in 1821, at the age of 80. He was the father of a large family of children, one of whom, Edward D. Peters, Esq., of Boston, a merchant of the old school, won an honorable place among merchants of that city for honesty and uprightness. The venerable John A. Peters, of Bangor, many years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, a graduate of Yale, a former member of Congress and an able jurist, is a grandson.

John Peters, Jr., an incorporator, was a son, and an uncle of Judge Peters, for whom the latter was named, was a successful business man in New York.

Rev. William Mason, another incorporator, was born in Princeton, Mass., in 1764; graduated at Harvard College in 1792, was ordained over the first church at Castine in October, 1792, of which he was pastor until 1834, when he resigned and removed to Bangor, where he died March 24, 1847.

His son William, born at Castine, May 8, 1805, graduated

from Bowdoin College in 1824; studied medicine and received the degree of M. D. from Harvard College in 1832, removed to Charlestown, Mass., where he died March 13, 1881. He had two daughters, one of whom is the wife of Col. Horace N. Fisher of Brookline.

Rev. Jonathan Powers, son of Rev. Peter Powers before mentioned, one of the incorporators, was a graduate of Dartmouth College, a minister at Castine and an influential man.

Jonathan Buck, one of the first settlers of Bucksport, a representative to the Massachusetts General Court and an able business man, was an incorporator.

David Thurston of Sedgwick and one of its early settlers, an influential business man, was another incorporator. He educated two sons that entered the ministry, one of whom, Stephen, preached the 100th anniversary sermon of the Blue Hill Church in 1872.

Robert Haskell Wood, another incorporator, grandson of Joseph Wood the first settler, a representative to the Great and General Court of Massachusetts, was an able and influential citizen.

It may be truthfully said of the incorporators and Board of Trustees, that they were able and earnest in their desire to advance the interests committed to their charge, and well performed their task in that new and distant field, far away from other centres of educational activities.

There were but two colleges, Bowdoin and Waterville, and six academies in Maine, prior to March, 1803, when the Blue Hill Academy was chartered; in that month Hampden and Gorham academies were chartered. The nearest academy before that date was at Machias, chartered in 1792.

The Secretaries of Blue Hill Academy Trustees had been Theodore Stevens for a short time, then Ebenezer Floyd, who held office until 1806, when he resigned on account of other pressing duties. Reuben Dodge was next chosen and remained in office until February, 1830, and then resigned on account of failing health. Nathan Ellis was then chosen and continued in office until his death in 1848, when John Stevens,



son of the first Secretary, was elected, who remained in office some forty-five years until his death.

When Mr. Stevens became Secretary and Treasurer, the funds of the Academy amounted to about \$6,000; at the close of his stewardship they had more than doubled in amount.

The old wooden building erected in 1803 was sold for \$90, to be removed from the place where it stood, and was replaced by one of brick in 1832, costing \$1,734, and in which the school was kept until united with the George Stevens Academy in 1897.

The George Stevens Academy was built from a fund left by will of the late George Stevens, to trustees, to build a Baptist Academy whenever the trust should, in the judgment of the trustees, amount to a sum sufficient for that purpose. He also left his orchard for a site and his mansion house for a students' dormitory. He died in 1851. A part of the sum left was lost during the war of the Rebellion by investment in the South, so that it was not thought best by the trustees of the fund to erect the building until 1897. When it was finished the trustees of the Blue Hill Academy united with the George Stevens Academy trustees in an agreement to hold the school sessions in the new building, and that the name of the united school should be "The Blue Hill-George Stevens Academy."

Since that time the old building of 1832 has stood more or less out of repair, but it is being put in order as an Historical Society's home, which was organized in August, 1903.

The first term of the Blue Hill Academy began in November, 1803, and was taught by Elias Upton at a salary of ten dollars per week including board. Elias Upton was the son of Abraham and Susannah Upton of Lynnfield, Mass., born February 16, 1772. He was a graduate of Harvard College in the class of 1802 and went to Blue Hill in 1803 to become the preceptor of the Academy, a position he held for eleven years. He married Affee Peters, daughter of John and Mary Peters, in 1808. He represented Blue Hill in the Massachusetts General Court in the years 1813-15-16. He removed from Blue Hill to Buckport in 1817. He had two daughters

and one son born at Blue Hill. Mr. Upton died at Buckport in 1857 and his widow died in 1862.

The tuition charge to students in the old Academy was twenty cents a week each, and one dollar entrance fee. The school year was forty weeks.

In summer a school was kept in the second story of the building by a preceptress, for younger pupils, at a salary of \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week including board.

During the preceptorship of Mr. Upton the second war with England occurred, in which Castine was again captured and held by the British until its close. The proximity of Blue Hill to Castine and the dominating influence of the British over the country east of the Penobscot had an injurious effect upon the business interests of the town and prosperity of the Academy, but so far as the authorities consulted show, the school continued its work throughout that period.

Since its incorporation the Academy has had forty odd preceptors, about a dozen preceptresses and as many as seventy different persons upon its Board of Trustees, and withal a noble record.

A hundred years are a short period in the economy of the ages, and in His sight, to whom "a thousand are as a day and a day as a thousand years." But to an individual, an institution, town or nation, a hundred years are a period of historic importance. To the individual, because it exceeds the bounds of his earthly existence and greater than his experience and observation can properly measure. To an institution, because the sphere of its usefulness to the community has passed into history and can be more or less accurately measured, and a forecast of its future can be made. To a town, because of its advance in prosperity and intelligence, the wise administration of its affairs, and the comfort and happiness of its citizens. To a state or nation, as it marks an era in its laws enacted and policies pursued for the welfare of its people, and their growth in civilization and Christian influence and growth among the nations of the earth.

In reviewing the history of Blue Hill from its founding to the present day much is found in the lives and acts of its

founders, and those who succeed them, worthy of commendation. Their Christian character and their efforts in behalf of education, the advance and progress of the town and an earnest care to maintain its good name, are manifest on the pages of the town's history. They planned and planted in wisdom, and 'twould seem better even than they knew, and their descendants have ever since been reaping rewards of their labor. Like Moses on Mount Pisgah, they saw in the distance the promised land and rejoiced at the sight.

They went to their reward with the consciousness that they had striven to make the world better through their lives, and that they would leave to their children an inheritance greater than that which they had received. We honor their memory and in the language of Scripture say, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

The Academy they founded has flourished for a hundred years, and it is well to celebrate its centennial, take account of its past achievements and cast a glance over its future. With its history before us we can but imperfectly measure the influence it has exerted in the town and vicinity since its founding a century ago.

Young men and young women in thousands have received instruction within it to fit them for their vocations in life, who have gone forth far and wide to spread its influence. In it have been fitted for college young men who became leaders at the bar and bench, in the pulpit, in the practice of medicine, and other learned professions. Those who became legislators in the state and nation; teachers in private and public institutions of learning; editors and writers of magazines, papers, books, and pamphlets, have received a part, and in many cases, the most part of their educational training within it. Many who later held prominent positions as business men, merchants, manufacturers, seamen and shipmasters, and became proficient in their several callings were trained in it, and have spread its influence over the continent and over the sea to the distant regions of the earth.

Its teaching and influence was ever exalting, inculcating duties owed to one's Maker, his neighbor, himself; love for

home, patriotism for country, and those who have been recipients of that teaching were found to be loyal to their country when assailed by foes from without or within its borders.

When an invasion of the state was threatened in 1839 over the disputed Northeastern Boundary, a company from Blue Hill, many of whom had been students at the Academy, marched away to the Aroostook to defend her rights. The Captain of that company, Nathan Ellis, Jr., was the son of the Secretary of the Academy's board of trustees. Happily that dispute was settled without bloodshed, but the patriotism of those sons of the town and of the Academy shines forth nevertheless.

When the War of the Rebellion was in progress the young men of the town, in number reaching to nearly two hundred, answered their country's call for its defence, many of whom laid down their lives on distant battle-fields to maintain the Union, and to give us the blessing of a united and prosperous country, such as we today are enjoying. The greater number of those that went forth served in the ranks, but some won distinction as officers, on whose record citizens of the town and in particular the Alumni of the Academy, can look with commendable pride.

But we should not on this occasion confine our retrospect to the male students of the Academy, but should give out meed of praise to a noble band of women who received their educational training in part or in whole within the old Academy. No one can do them full justice for the influence they have wielded as teachers, members of society, at home and elsewhere, as wives and mothers in their households, where in queenly majesty their gentle rule must be obeyed and to whom the town has been and is now greatly indebted. On the roll of educators they stand on the mountain height to survey the field from the dawn of intelligence of youth to point the way to maturity, and wielding a righteous influence, which all know from experience but which we often fail to acknowledge and appreciate, or measure to its full extent.

All honor to those women whose influence in the town has

helped to make it the intelligent community it is recognized to be, and who reflect the good influence of their Academy teaching, not only in themselves but in their offspring.

No one could have had a term's teaching in the old Academy without its influence being exerted to make his life higher and nobler than otherwise it would have been.

The blessings enumerated which the people of Blue Hill enjoy, sprang from forethought and wisdom of the town's founders, whom, upon this centennial occasion, all should gratefully remember and loyally honor.

Moses taught the children of Israel not to forget the hand that delivered them from Egyptian bondage, but to remember his words: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, bind them for a sign upon your hand that they may be a frontlet between your eyes. Teach them to the children speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by day, when thou liest down and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the doorposts of thine house and upon thy gates; that your days may be multiplied and the days of our children in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon earth."

The people of Blue Hill and their children may not realize it to be "as a heaven upon earth," but the nearer they approach to the ideals of the fathers and founders of the town, the happier it will be for all.

May the members of the Blue Hill Academy Alumni Association and their friends emulate the piety, virtue and honor of the founders of the town and its Academy, maintain the standard of education and devotion to civic duties they set up, sustain and support the old Academy and the new in their union, so that upon the bicentennial celebration their names shall be held in lasting remembrance with those we this day commemorate.



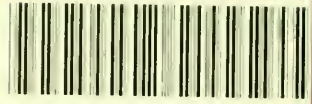








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